

Football Lads groups plan action in London and Manchester >>Pages 10&11

Stop far right from gaining a foothold



Right push war, but party's problems go far deeper >>Pages 14&15

LABOUR AND THE DRIVE TO WAR



Socialist Worker

£1 | No 2601 | 25 April - 1 May 2018 | socialistworker.co.uk

AFTER WINDRUSH SCANDAL

KICK OUT RACISTS MAY AND RUDD

THE GOVERNMENT has been forced onto the back foot over their racist treatment of the Windrush Generation of migrants.

In an attempt to save Tory skins, Amber Rudd announced an amnesty for those who came from the Caribbean between 1948 and 1973.

It leaves thousands who came afterwards still facing uncertainty.

The home secretary insisted the scandal resulted from “unintended” consequences. But there was nothing “unintended” about

this affair—it flowed from Britain’s racist immigration laws.

And Theresa May and Rudd are directly responsible through their “hostile environment” policy.

The fight is not over. Rudd made it clear she wasn’t stopping her broader racist assault on migrants.

Now is the time to harness the anger over Windrush into a mass movement that can fight all the racist laws and kick out the Tories.

>>Pages 4&5



EDUCATION

School strikers resist academies and pay curbs

WORKERS AT two Newham schools, east London, began a three-day strike on Tuesday. The NEU union members are fighting academisation plans.

Workers across five East Sussex schools also struck on Tuesday demanding higher pay, as did those at Connaught school in Waltham Forest last week.

>>Page 7

FRANCE



Gestures won’t win, says French rail striker

AROUND 300,000 people took part in some 190 protests and rallies in France last week.

A major battle is continuing against President Emmanuel Macron’s neoliberal assault.

Strikes have united different groups. But unions need to urgently escalate.

>>Page 8

ROTHERHAM

Survivor of abuse scandal slams police failings

SAMMY Woodhouse helped expose a child sexual exploitation scandal and her new book shows how her abuser had “friends in the police”.

“He had a lot of professionals in his back pocket,” she said.

>>Page 17



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'He wasn't a racist in the crude sense'

Ukip in Wales leader
Neil Hamilton defending
Enoch Powell

'The main thing I've learned from working in the British media is that much of it is a cult. Afflicted by a suffocating groupthink, intolerant of critics'

The Guardian columnist
Owen Jones

'Employing just one bad egg can lead to an employment tribunal'

Peninsula, a consultancy promoting its services to help employers avoid costly employment tribunal settlements

'Love the socialist motherland and embrace the leadership of the Communist Party'

A pledge a sperm bank in Beijing is making donors sign



Was Lyca money laundered through Conservative party?

THE GOVERNMENT blocked a money laundering investigation into a firm that donated £2.2 million to the Tories.

HMRC refused to assist a French probe into Lycamobile, citing the fact it is the "biggest corporate donor to the Conservative party" and gives money to a trust founded by Prince Charles.

In an official response to the French, dated March 30, 2017, a HMRC official noted telecoms giant Lycamobile is "a large multinational company" with "vast assets at their disposal" and would be "extremely unlikely to agree to having their premises searched".

The donations to the Tories included a single cash sum of £542,500 in March 2016. That came after the first articles accusing the company of money laundering had appeared.

Cash collectors working for the company were caught on camera dropping rucksacks containing hundreds of thousands of pounds at post offices in London.

French prosecutors charged nine



Boris Johnson and Lycamobil boss Subaskaran Allirajah

people with money laundering of at least £13.4 million and VAT fraud.

Lycamobile has denied financial mispractice.

Lycamobile's owner, Subaskaran Allirajah, was a member of the exclusive Leader's Group for top Tory donors.

He attended the Tories' fundraising

ball in February 2015 where he bought a statue of Margaret Thatcher for £210,000.

He dined with David Cameron or members of his cabinet twice in while donating. And he is close to Boris Johnson, after bankrolling his general election campaign.

Buzzfeed News, which broke the story, approached HMRC to ask about its response to the French request.

In response a press officer indignantly, colourfully and emphatically denied that Lycamobile's donations would ever be cited as a reason not to conduct criminal raids. "No HMRC official would ever write such a letter," he said. "This is the United Kingdom for God's sake, not some third world banana republic where the organs of state are in hock to some sort of kleptocracy."

Alas, after verifying the contents of the email seen by BuzzFeed, the HMRC harrumphing came to an abrupt halt.

It was, a different spokesman said, "regrettable".

Quite so.

● **PRINCE CHARLES** told a non-white woman, "Well, you don't look like it" when she said she was from Manchester. Writer Anita Sethi said she was "stunned" and her feelings went from "shock to humiliation to rage" following the encounter at the Commonwealth People's Forum where she was a speaker. Troublemaker presumes all princes are racist.



● **JUST BEFORE** the 25th anniversary of Stephen Lawrence's murder, we learned a little more about how the state used spies to undermine the Lawrence family. A spy at the heart of the Lawrence campaign has been known for some time as N81 but we now know his cover name was Dave Hagan. For more go to bit.ly/81spycop

Leave it—Ukip and Farage aren't worth it

NIGEL FARAGE'S team of bodyguards—there must be a team—should be prepared.

Will Carling, the former England rugby captain, doesn't seem to like the former Ukip leader very much. "When I see Nigel Farage's face," says Carling, "I would just so love to hit it with a right hook. What a feeling that would be."

Luckily for Farage, the Tory MP Sir Nicholas Soames has placed his frame between the combatants, advising Carling Farage

was "not in any way a man to waste your magnificence on".

Which, translated from the original posho means, "Leave 'im, Will mate, he just ain't worth it."

● **PAULA** Walters, who is standing for Ukip at next month's local elections, is finding it hard to stand over her Twitter account. Various offensive tweets about Muslims and posts comparing migrants to terrorists are of course nothing to do with the account bearing her name.



Another racist

Did Gove help DUP dodgy fundraiser?

TWO TOP Tories have attended party fundraisers for the DUP. The Electoral Commission is investigating whether public money may have been laundered into party coffers.

Michael Gove headlined a function at a hotel last September. Ex-cabinet minister Priti Patel spoke at a similar bash.

Both events charged £1,500 per table—and face claims that their role as DUP fundraisers was not made clear.

The event attended by Gove was pitched to potential attendees



One more racist

as a "chance to shape forthcoming agriculture policies".

What's more, unionist-dominated Mid East and Antrim Council paid £1,500 to sponsor a table. While the cheque was apparently made out to the hotel, DUP MP Ian Paisley asked the council to send the payment to his office.

It's a boy!

THE NATION—or rather journalists—rejoice at a new royal.

Princess Margaret was born on August 21, 1930. John Gordon, editor of the Sunday Express, thought a horoscope predicting her future would be good for sales. Astrologers were asking for a fortune to tell a fortune. So his assistant Richard Harold Naylor knocked one up.

The article, "What The Stars Foretell For The New Princess" was a success and the newspaper horoscope was born. They changed the format a year later for signs of the zodiac to make it quicker to write each week.

With a similar level of mystical insight Troublemaker offers a prediction. There will be the onerous duties of being a royal.

The child will have to appear on the Buckingham Palace balcony for waving duties. Many jaunts to former bits of the empire will take place. He will do nothing, at our expense, for a long time.

FIGURE IT OUT

2,000

Aproximate number of babies born in Britain on Monday

600

of those will spend their childhood in poverty

£7,500

Cost of a one night stay and delivery package at the private Lindo Wing, excluding consultants' fees

£9,400

Cost per year for Willcocks Nursery School, which junior scrounger Charlotte attends

£4.5MILLION

Cost to us of refurbishing William and Kate's Kensington Palace apartment in 2012

£42.8MILLION

The amount the queen received from us via the Sovereign Grant in 2016-2017

£6.35MILLION

Cost of security for Kate and Wills' 2011 wedding

£2.8MILLION

Total of that which was just to pay cops' overtime

Get in touch with
Socialist Worker



Email reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

Facebook "Socialist Worker (Britain)"

Twitter @socialistworker



Newsdesk
020 7840 5656
Circulation
020 7840 5601



Write to
Socialist Worker
PO Box 74955
London
E16 9EJ

Care for 13,500 at risk as outsourcer faces collapse

by SARAH BATES

CARE FOR many elderly and vulnerable people has been thrown into chaos. Only a few months after the Carillion crash, another giant of outsourcing was on the brink of financial collapse at the start of this week.

Bosses at Allied Healthcare are not making enough profits. It means an uncertain future for the 13,500 who rely on the firm's home care services.

Allied has home care contracts with over 150 local authorities. They also provide out-of-hours services for the NHS, including 111 telephone services, GP-led medical centres and end of life care.

Allied applied for a company voluntary arrangement (CVA) on Monday, after admitting it didn't have enough money to pay its bills.

The CVA is designed to restructure the firm's debts, with bosses saying they don't have any plans for redundancies or closures.

The CVA would give the company four weeks to agree a revised schedule of repayments.

Allied is Britain's largest domiciliary care business and employs over 8,000 people. It boasts of providing over nine million hours of care a year.

Decision

Allied bosses say they can't afford to pay workers what they are owed after a HMRC ruling in November 2017. This said workers on a "sleep-in" shift should get paid the minimum wage for time spent at work.

Previous to this decision, workers would only get a flat rate for the shift.

And workers can claim for up to six years of backdated "sleep-in" pay.

The Unison, GMB and Unite unions, representing health care and social care workers, celebrated the changes to "sleep-in" pay as a victory. But a bigger campaign will be needed

OUTSOURCING FIRM Allied Healthcare could be on the verge of collapse, putting thousands of elderly people's lives at risk

to fight the bosses' excuses they can't afford to pay workers' wages.

Bosses have also blamed April's rise in the minimum wage rate for their cash flow problems. They say an increase of just 33p to £7.83 an hour has left them with an extra £65,000 to pay each week.

But Allied's owner, Aurelius, announced annual pre-tax group profits of nearly £550 million last month.

Allied is just the latest example of the scandal of outsourcing care to private companies. If companies decide they aren't making enough money they can just pull care for some of the most vulnerable in society.

This was the case with Bield care homes, which closed 12 care homes

in Scotland earlier this year, meaning 160 elderly people lost their homes. Bield bosses blamed cuts to social care budgets and "financial constraints" for the closures.

Instead of care packages being auctioned off to the cheapest care provider, all care should be brought back in house to local authorities and the NHS.

Public ownership will open the way to people getting the quality care they deserve instead of being left at the mercy of fat cat healthcare bosses.

What's your story?

Email with your ideas
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

AUSTERITY

Corbyn to join TUC protest

LABOUR LEADER Jeremy Corbyn has announced he will speak at the Trades Union Congress anti-austerity demonstration on Saturday 12 May in London.

Thousands will take to the streets against pay cuts, privatisation, and the attacks on benefits, services and union rights.

And it can be a positive response to the government's policy of trying to blame migrants and Muslims for problems in society. Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) has organised a bloc on the march.

SUTR said, "Contrary to the lies pumped out by the right wing press and politicians, migrant workers don't drive down wages."

Unions are organising hundreds of coaches to bring demonstrators to London.

Huw Williams, a Unison steward, told Socialist Worker, "Unison in the south west of England has told us it's organising 40 coaches to come to the demonstration."

"Other unions are also laying on transport."

"Now we have to work to fill those places—that means linking the demonstration to a real fightback."

The march must be a catalyst for strikes that can humble the Tories.

It's good that Corbyn has announced he will be there well in advance.

Too often in recent months Corbyn has not been on demonstrations that previously he would have joined.

Let's take to the streets and then escalate the fight.

For details of the march go to bit.ly/TUC12May

Welsh Labour election sees right defy members

IN ANOTHER sign of how the Labour right still has influence, the left has failed to win the deputy leader of the Welsh Labour Party.

This is despite its candidate Julie Morgan winning almost two thirds of the members' votes.

The result was announced before Carwyn Jones revealed he would stand down as first minister later this year.

Labour's electoral college gives equal weight to the members, the affiliates (mostly trade unions), and MPs and Assembly members. Just 58 politicians had a third of

the vote. Morgan took more than 65 percent of the members' vote, but her opponent Carolyn Harris won both the MPs and AMs section, and the affiliates section.

Harris took 51.5 percent of the vote overall.

After the result Momentum chair Jon Lansman tweeted, "The process was a travesty of democracy and insults the people of Wales. The Welsh exec deliberately chose to limit members' say to a third."

"They knew what they were doing. It's called gerrymandering."

Breakfast in



Sign up to our morning newsletter Breakfast in Red and get the latest news every day.

For updates and analysis on the stories that matter go to socialistworker.co.uk/breakfastinred

ON THE WEB

Top five hits this week on
www.socialistworker.co.uk

- 1 **'Gestures won't win,' says French rail striker**
bit.ly/FrenchStrike
- 2 **The spy at the heart of the Lawrence campaign**
bit.ly/81spycop
- 3 **Protest against FLA**
bit.ly/2HsDnPn
- 4 **Book shows police helped cover up abuse**
bit.ly/JustAChild
- 5 **Windrush scandal flows from Tory racism**
bit.ly/WindRacism



Make life hostile for Tories after Windrush injustices

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

A WAVE of anger at the Tories' racist treatment of the Windrush Generation of migrants has forced Theresa May and Amber Rudd onto the back foot.

The home secretary announced on Monday that migrants who came from Britain's Caribbean colonies between 1948 and 1973 would be allowed to apply for citizenship.

They had faced the threat of deportation or loss of livelihood. Now some of the hoops migrants are made to jump through, such as citizenship tests, will be waived.

But the Windrush scandal is not over—and nor are the Tories' troubles.

The amnesty doesn't include Caribbean migrants who came after 1973 who still face uncertainty (see right). And pressure is already mounting for it to include migrants who came from other parts of the British Empire such as Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

But the Tories are in a bind because the Windrush scandal has shone a light on Britain's racist immigration laws.

Labour's shadow home secretary Diane Abbott slammed the Tories' hollow words at an 800-strong Stand Up To Racism rally in Brixton, south London, last Friday. "They should not be apologising, because you only apologise when you make a mistake," she said.

Hostile

"They knew what they were doing with their 'hostile environment'."

As home secretary May promised to create a "hostile environment" for migrants. Her Immigration Act 2014 turned



Windrush protest last week

BACK STORY

Tory immigration policy is to blame for the Windrush scandal

Recent cases have seen some sacked from their jobs, deported or denied medical treatment

This is a result of Tories promising to create a "hostile environment" for migrants

People were asked to provide four pieces of evidence for every year they've lived here

But records have been destroyed, making it difficult to get the right documents

public sector workers and landlords into border guards.

Former special adviser Polly McKenzie said last week that "right from the start, Theresa May's mission was to make it systematically difficult to get by without papers."

And Rudd made clear on Monday that the Tories have no intention of letting up their racist assault.

Rudd claimed that "steps intended to combat illegal migration have had an unintended and sometimes devastating impact". Yet she warned the Tories were committed to "enforce the immigration rules".

The Windrush affair shows the racist brutality of the Tory government and the British immigration system. Each must be fought in their entirety.

The rally in Brixton showed the anger that exists against the Tories' racism. Chants of "Amber Rudd, resign" and "Theresa May, resign" rang out. They should both go now—along with the rest of the racist Tory rabble.

Anti-racists must harness the anger over Windrush into a mass movement that fights for the right of all migrants and refugees to come to Britain and stay as long as they want.

Windrush Generation amnesty debate protest called by SUTR, Monday 30 April, 4pm-7pm, Parliament Square, London



RALLYING IN Windrush Square, south London, last week

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Stop Tories splitting movement against racist immigration laws

THE RIGHT wing press has hypocritically seized on the Windrush scandal because it allows them to push the narrative of "good migrants" vs "bad migrants".

Guardian journalist Gary Younge spoke at the SUTR rally in Brixton.

"I have a concern that the Windrush Generation is the new 'national treasure' and that we will be separated as the worthy immigrants," he said.

"That suggests there are unworthy immigrants for whom this hostility is okay.

"We need to stand with the Windrush Generation, but also make sure that nobody has illusions that it stops with them."

Another sign of the Tories' real aim to cut long-term immigration and divide workplaces came a few days before their retreats over the Windrush Generation.

The government launched a new scheme to bring Jamaican nurses to Britain. But under the "earn, learn and return" plan the nurses must leave Britain after



Emily Thornberry

three years. Some in the Labour Party have also fallen into this dangerous trap of good vs bad migrants.

The Immigration Act 2014 enshrined the Tories' racist "hostile environment" in law by compelling public sector workers and landlords to check passports. And it enabled the deportation

of Commonwealth citizens.

Labour's shadow foreign secretary Emily Thornberry defended turning workers into border guards on the BBC Andrew Marr Show on Sunday.

"I do not have a problem with checks," she said, "it is right that we should have rules and that they should be enforced. And it should be done fairly and fast and it should be firm."

Disgracefully, along with the majority of Labour MPs, Thornberry abstained on the 2014 Act. Only seven Labour MPs voted against it—including Diane Abbott, John McDonnell and David Lammy.

Jeremy Corbyn, who strongly opposed the bill, did not vote because he was the teller for those against the Bill.

On Sunday McDonnell said a Labour government would bring in "a sensible system that operates fairly" and was "reasonable".

But that system still includes scrapping freedom of movement for EU migrants.

Migrants are at risk of automatic deportations

THE Windrush scandal has highlighted the racist treatment of migrants from Britain's former colonies.

The scandal goes deeper than those who came after the Second World War.

Winston, a pensioner who came from Jamaica in 1990, has been detained four times and faces the threat of deportation.

"They took my free travel pass from me," he told Socialist Worker. "I have to pay for my medication for glaucoma.

"And they say you're not supposed to work so I'm staying with friends because I can't afford anywhere else.

"It's terrible—I want my life back".

Winston's is just one example of how the Tories' hostile



Entrance to The Verne detention centre

environment makes life difficult for migrants. "I was detained for about four months," said Winston.

"I just came out on 2 February after being in the Verne and Brook House detention centres.

"The Verne is like a prison, they treat you like a murderer, a criminal, they don't care about humanity."

Winston was previously sent to prison for having marijuana, and because he was sent down for over 12 months, it meant he qualified for an automatic deportation.

After losing his judicial review this month, Winston is facing uncertainty because of Britain's racist immigration laws.



The Rivers of Love event in Birmingham

Event defies Powell's hatred

ANTI-RACISTS IN Birmingham rallied on the 50th anniversary of Tory MP Enoch Powell's racist "Rivers of Blood" speech last Friday.

The Rivers of Love event was organised by SUTR and the West Midlands TUC union federation.

It was held in the same room in the Macdonald Burlington Hotel where Powell made the speech.

Eleanor Smith, a black woman Labour MP, took Powell's old Wolverhampton seat at the general election last June.

"Fifty years ago Enoch Powell was in this room making that pernicious, racist speech,"

she told the meeting.

"A speech that he hoped would divide a nation, a speech that he hoped would send messages out to say, 'We don't want you'.

"His message may have been heard—and may have been seen on telly—but look at it now.

Celebration

"Because now we are here in the same room and I'm speaking on behalf of a Wolverhampton constituency, the very one he was an MP for."

The event was a celebration of multiculturalism—but it was also about building the fight against the Tories' racism today.

Unison union assistant general secretary Roger McKenzie urged people to build a mass movement to transform society.

"If we don't build a united movement that stands against racism and is for that better society we have learned nothing," he said.

Sabby Dhalu, the co-convenor of SUTR, said there was a danger of "creeping Powellism at top layers of politics". She added, "Powell's speech sparked a furious debate in the government, with people threatening to resign if he was not sacked.

"But today his politics live on in the prime minister and home secretary."

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

VOTE LABOUR ON 3 MAY—BUT ORGANISE ACTION TOO

LOCAL ELECTIONS across much of England on 3 May are a chance to deliver a verdict on Theresa May's regime of racism, austerity and war.

If the Conservatives suffer some humiliating losses, the government's crisis could accelerate.

The elections are also an opportunity to back Jeremy Corbyn and left policies such as more money for services, opposition to privatisation and targeting the rich.

That's why, except in a very few cases where there are credible candidates to the left of Labour, Socialist Worker supports a vote for Labour next Thursday.

But there are two very important points to add.

The first is that Labour councils have reacted to local government funding cuts in ways hardly distinguishable from the Tories.

Central government funding for local authorities fell in real terms by 49 percent between 2010-11 and 2017-18, according to the National Audit Office.

Instead of defying the Tories, Labour councils have slashed services, put up the council tax,

and attacked their own workers. They have done deals with outsourcers and privateers.

In Birmingham, for example, Labour tried to cut refuse workers' wages and is now hitting homecare workers.

They ignore the words from Corbyn about tackling the Tories—and Corbyn doesn't stop them.

People on the sharp end of such attacks won't flock to the polls to vote for those doing the attacking. Others will do it grudgingly because they want to support Corbyn, not their local pro-cuts councillor.

So alongside any call to vote Labour must be a demand that

Voting matters, but not nearly so much as building strikes, protests and campaigns

Labour councils stop implementing the cuts and start fighting the government. Labour councillors should, as the very least, not approve or cooperate with the STP health plans that threaten £22 billion in cuts across England.

If "for the many, not the few" means anything, it means protecting people from the ravages of attacks on vital services.

The second point is that the election results are highly unlikely to bring down May, still less end the Tory government.

The storm of outrage and protests over the Windrush Generation had a much larger policy effect than any council election result.

Voting matters, but not nearly so much as building strikes, protests and campaigns.

So 3 May is not the key date. The key dates are 6 and 19 May, where there will be mobilisations against the far right in London and Manchester, and 12 May when unions will demonstrate in London.

Only a greatly escalated fight in the streets and workplaces can remove the government that threatens four more years of vile policies.

FIGHT TRUMP FROM BELOW

BIGGOTED US president Donald Trump has been "pencilled" in to come to Britain on 14 July, according to the Daily Mail newspaper's "sources".

A spokesperson for Theresa May said details were still being worked out. The Daily Telegraph newspaper claimed an "unnamed source" told them Trump was coming in "late summer".

Whatever the truth or the date of his visit, he must be met with huge protests. Some two million people have said they will

join protests if Trump comes to Britain.

A new grouping, Together Against Trump, has brought together the Stand Up To Trump coalition and Stop Trump for a one-off demonstration.

This will oppose his politics of racism, war and ruling for the rich. It will target Trump but also May for hosting and supporting him – from racist immigration bans to bombs on Syria.

The speculation over a visit comes as the inquiry into

potential Russian involvement in the 2016 US presidential election draws ever closer to Trump.

We can't rely on the people at the top of society to hold self-confessed sexual harasser Trump to account. They'd rather rely on legal manoeuvres such as suing Russia, WikiLeaks and Trump over allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 election campaign, as the Democratic National Committee has initiated.

It's up to ordinary people to fight against war and bigotry.



ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



Koreas are pawns in a much bigger game

IS DONALD Trump about to have a “Nixon in China” moment? The signs are that his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un may actually deliver a diplomatic success instead of descending into a disastrous war between the two countries.

This contradicts the conventional wisdom in the US national security establishment. It says that Trump made a mistake in not insisting that North Korea abandon its nuclear missile programme as a precondition of the summit.

This brings us to the hypocrisy of the US demand for the “complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation” of the Korean peninsula.

What this actually means is that North Korea, and not the US as well, renounces its nuclear weapons. For most of the Cold War US forces based in South Korea were armed with nuclear weapons. Some 28,000 US troops remain there, backed up by offshore naval and air forces with extensive nuclear capabilities.

Alex Wellerstein of the Stevens Institute of Technology told the Observer newspaper, “People like to talk about North Korea as ‘crazy’. The absolute ‘craziest’ thing they could do is give up their nuclear deterrent in a situation where they have an aggressive nuclear-armed enemy.”

Assessments such as this may apply the warped rationality of a capitalist system driven by competition between firms and states. But they show that, brutal Stalinist dictatorship though the North Korean regime may be, its aim is survival.

So Kim reacted to the near-collapse of the North Korean economy during the 1990s by allowing the development of private trade, which has stimulated economic growth.

Andrei Lankov, an expert on North Korea, told the Financial Times newspaper that Kim’s notorious ruthlessness has targeted senior people in the party and the military.

He has been “only killing people [holding] guns ... He has not touched a single economy manager. If you are a bank manager, you are safe. In six years, he has had seven ministers of defence, which is as many as his father and grandfather [North Korea’s previous rulers] had combined in 60 years.”

Campaigned

But, judged by his own standard of economic success, Kim is definitely under pressure. Since taking office Trump has campaigned for China to push North Korea to end its nuclear weapons programme.

At the end of the Cold War China took over Russia’s role as patron of the North Korean regime. In 2015 China accounted for 85 percent of North Korea’s imports and took 83 percent of its exports.

It looks like Trump’s campaign has paid off. Trade figures suggest China more or less cut off exports to North Korea of essential products such as petroleum, coal, steel, and motor vehicles towards the end of last year.

Meanwhile North Korea’s trade deficit with China has doubled and it is spending its foreign currency reserves to pay for essential imports. Experts predict that the reserves may run out by the end of the year.

So Kim, after taking an armoured train to Beijing for an audience with his Chinese patron Xi Jinping, is meeting first South Korea president Moon Jae-in and then Trump.

Confirmation that both sides are serious came when it emerged last week that CIA director Mike Pompeo, Trump’s next secretary of state, has been to North Korea to meet Kim.

And North Korea’s leader is talking about concessions.

He seems to have dropped Pyongyang’s traditional demand that the US pull its forces out of South Korea. Although why the US is still there 65 years after the end of the Korean War is one of those questions that no one seems to ask, let alone answer.

Kim is also talking about a peace treaty to replace the armistice that ended that war. And last Friday North Korea announced that it would hold no more nuclear or missile tests. Sceptics were quick to point out that it may well have developed its nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities to the point where it doesn’t need any more tests.

But even if the talks do get somewhere, they won’t end the great power contest between the US and China. For Trump the Koreas have always been pawns in that much bigger game.

Cops are cleared over Adrian McDonald’s death in custody

Two officers have had misconduct rulings against them removed over a death in 2014, reports **Alistair Farrow**

TWO COPS who previously had misconduct rulings against them in relation to the death of Adrian McDonald have had appeals against the ruling upheld.

Adrian died after being bitten by a police dog and tasered in Stoke-on-Trent on 22 December 2014.

Police broke down the door to his home, after which he was put in a police van and not checked on for almost seven minutes.

In this time he became unresponsive.

He asked for water and said he couldn’t breathe in the van, before suffering a cardiac arrest.

In a statement his family slammed the decision. “We are devastated at the appeal decision which makes no sense to us at all,” they said.

“The officers and their Police Federation colleague publicly laughed and joked before the result was announced.

Tragic

“We can only hope that the inquest into this tragic death, to take place in November 2018, will bring to light the true circumstances of what occurred leading to the death of our beloved Adrian.”

The two cops—Sergeant Jason Bromley and retired inspector Richard Bills—had their internal police misconduct rulings upheld by the

Police Appeals Tribunal on 17 April.

The original ruling was based on a “misunderstanding” at the original tribunal hearing.

The tribunal consisted of lawyer Sam Stein, Lincolnshire Police Chief Constable Bill Skelly and retired police inspector Steve Douglass.

Adrian’s family previously

TWO POLICE officers have been cleared of misconduct over the death of Adrian McDonald (left)

called the misconduct charges a “slap on the wrists” after the initial hearings in September last year.

Now the two cops will have written warnings related to the incident struck off their records.

Findings

Staffordshire police had initially said it respected the findings of the initial tribunal against the two officers. It sent “condolences” to Adrian’s family.

Deborah Coles, the director of the Inquest organisation, said, “This decision brings the police misconduct system into disrepute, and sets a dangerous precedent.

“We hope the upcoming inquest will explore

the evidence sufficiently to ensure those who should be are properly held to account.”

She went on to point out “the chairman of the Staffordshire Police Federation felt it appropriate to make public and inflammatory speculations about the circumstances of Adrian’s death, prior to an inquest.

“Attempting to demonise a black man as ‘violent’, to blame him for his own death, in order to deflect attention from the conduct of officers, is a familiar tactic that is prejudicial and unacceptable.”

Got a story?
Email ideas to reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Possible charges in Sean Rigg case

THE Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) has announced it is recommending charges against five officers for gross misconduct in relation to the death of Sean Rigg.

Sean died on the floor of the holding area at Brixton police station on 21 August 2008.

Andrew Birks is one of the five cops the IOPC has said should be charged.

His second attempt to challenge a decision to block his resignation was successful last week. This means he could now



Sean Rigg, who died in 2008

apply to retire and escape disciplinary proceedings.

Birks has been suspended on full pay since 2014.

Sean’s sister Marcia Rigg said, “My family and I welcome the IOPC’s decision to direct gross misconduct charges for officers involved in Sean’s death.

“As we approach ten years since my brother died following unnecessary and unsuitable restraint, we hope the hearings will take place as soon as possible and provide some accountability.”

FIGURE IT OUT

50 people died in police custody or after contact with cops in England and Wales last year, according to Inquest

45 people died in 2016 and a total of 1,654 have died since 1990

0 cops have been successfully prosecuted for murder or manslaughter in any of these cases

Strikers keep up the pressure on academies

East London school fight is about more than privatisation, says **Miriam Scharf**

WORKERS AT two Newham schools began a three-day strike on Tuesday.

The first day was the 17th strike day for NEU union members at Avenue school (pictured), and the eighth day of strikes for those at Cumberland school.

And a further three-day walkout is planned at both schools starting next Tuesday. Education workers are striking because of a proposed takeover of the schools by a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

Avenue teaching assistant Azra told Socialist Worker, "We've always had community schools in Newham. Children do well in them. But I've heard of children hating their schools when they become academies."

Striker Katerina added, "This is about privatising the education sector. It's all about financial gain for the trust. The school will not benefit."

There is a lot of anger that governing bodies have not even met to try and resolve the dispute despite the clear message from staff and severe disruption to children and parents. NEU joint secretary Kevin Courtney met the head and chair of governors at Cumberland last week in an effort to resolve the dispute.

Bound

Bosses claim that they are legally bound to continue with academisation plans.

But the governing body is perfectly able to vote against academisation and withdraw their application to become part of a MAT.

For many staff, and for parents who have joined the picket lines, the threat to inclusion is one aspect driving their determination to fight.

Sharon, a parent of two special education needs students, said, "In an academy they'll get pushed out and forgotten about."

Sharon's daughter Hope addressed pickets at Cumberland last week. "We're not being told what is happening, but the changes to inclusion are already having an

BACK STORY

Workers don't want their schools taken over by a Multi Academy Trust (MAT)

- Over half of the biggest MATs have issued funding warnings
- Several MATs have posted deficits while grabbing millions from the state
- The limited "consultation process" for turning schools into academies lacks transparency
- Schools shouldn't be handed over to MATs

impact," she said.

Staff expressed distrust of a raft of new interventions that had hit staff and students through the year, many coming from the CEO of the proposed MAT. Teachers said they worried that "the passion and caring staff of our school won't fit the data-driven academy model".

The campaign in Newham is having an effect. The governing body at Eastlea secondary school met in the Easter holidays and voted against academisation.

Another primary, Colegrove, has also decided not to academise.

And at Calverton Primary NEU members are proceeding to an indicative ballot for strikes. Governors at Keir Hardie school voted last month to abandon academy plans, following strikes at the school.

NEU president Kiri Tunks told strikers last week that the campaign "is making waves, not just in London but outside as well".

The pressure of action in defence of community schools is driving the direction of travel away from the MATs and the private interests they serve.

Send messages of support to assistant.secretary@nta.gmail.com



Got a story?

Email ideas to reports@socialist-worker.co.uk



ON THE picket line at Avenue School this week

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

Teachers in London and Sussex are fighting for the pay rise they deserve

NEU UNION members at six schools are staging strikes to demand better pay.

Workers at Connaught School for Girls in Waltham Forest ended a three-day strike last Thursday in a battle over pay. NEU members are demanding the higher inner London pay rate at the outer London school.

Paul is an NEU rep at the school. "We've had a really good week picketing," he told Socialist Worker.

"The mood has been excellent. Local activists including people in the Labour Party have leafleted other schools with us.

"We have built up a level of activity and confidence."

And in East Sussex, NEU members across five schools struck on Tuesday over pay.

The walkouts will hit Priory School Lewes, Uckfield Community Technology College, St Catherine's College Eastbourne, Peacehaven Community School and Seaford Head School.

Newer and lower paid workers have been denied the 2 percent pay rise that was recommended by the School Teachers' Pay Review Body.

NEU rep Phil Clarke said, "I can see no good argument why teachers should be paid less in East Sussex than in most of the rest of the country.

"This will only discourage teachers from working in East Sussex schools."

Phil added that the rise would only cost "an average of £1,700 per school for the whole year".

East Sussex teachers plan a further walkout on 3 May. Connaught workers plan more strikes on 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10 May. They have had lots of messages of support, including from the NEU president and ex-president.

Reasonable

Paul said, "Our members are crystal clear that they have been more than reasonable in trying to resolve the dispute. But union officials have said there's been no attempt to contact them. We are always willing to talk. But talks have to be on the basis that there is a serious offer."

Five other schools in the north east London borough already pay teachers the inner London pay rate.

"If you're a teacher in Waltham

Forest, you know there's the potential to earn more," said Paul. "Teachers have shown they are committed to staying in our school."

"But the cost of living is going up. We need to feel valued."

The action comes after the NEU agreed to launch a "vigorous campaign" over pay at its annual conference in Brighton last month. The union has demanded a 5 percent rise following years of real-terms pay cuts.

Paul said the Connaught strike is driven by concern about the recruitment and retention of teachers.

"If we can't recruit and retain teachers, it damages children's education," he said. But he added that moves by the national union to fight over pay have boosted morale.

"We can see that our strikes are part of a much bigger campaign over pay," he said.

Sadie Robinson

Send messages of support to pablophillips2007@yahoo.co.uk



On other pages...

Ealing school strikes join the action >> Page 18

'Gestures won't win,' says French rail striker

Strikes continue against Emmanuel Macron, but they need to urgently accelerate, says **Charlie Kimber**

AROUND 300,000 people took part in some 190 demonstrations and rallies in France last week as the battle continues against President Emmanuel Macron's neoliberal assault.

They brought together rail workers, electricity and gas workers who are fighting privatisation, civil service workers, pensioners, students and school students.

Rail workers are striking two days in every five.

The turnout was smaller than a united day of action on 22 March. This time in most areas only the CGT federation called people out. On 22 March there was a wider call.

The strikes need urgently to accelerate.

Pierre Brun, a rail worker, told Socialist Worker, "We had a good demonstration in Lyon, 8,000 or so. It felt strong and united. Lots of different workers were on the streets with us."

"The number of train drivers on strike doesn't go down. Some people miss a strike or two, others come out."

"But the issue is how we're going to win. There will be big demos around May Day. Good, but there has to be something that paralyses the country—a general strike, and for more than one day."

"Macron is very determined. Gestures won't win."

Selection

Meanwhile the student movement continues to resist Macron's plan to increase selection and make it harder to go to university—despite police attacks on occupations.

The latest came at Tolbiac in Paris where cops seriously injured a number of people.

The government claims that only three universities now have any form of occupations going on.

But the main student union, Unef, said on Monday that actions continued at Rennes 1, Paris 3, Paris 8, IEP Lille, Toulouse 2, Rennes 2, Nantes, Rouen, Strasbourg, Limoges, Montpellier 3, Aix-Marseille, Nancy,

BACK STORY

Workers in France are engaged in a series of ongoing walkouts

● The latest protests brought together rail, energy and civil service workers, with students

● Workers have different disputes but are united in opposing President Macron's neoliberalism

● But the latest protests were smaller as only one union federation called people out

● Union leaders urgently need to escalate the action to beat Macron's assault

Metz, Avignon, Paris 4, Bordeaux Victoire, IEP Paris and Nanterre.

Sylvine, a student from Paris, told Socialist Worker, "The movement is not intimidated, we're angry."

"There are thousands of young people involved—against selection, with the strikers, against the new laws that crackdown on asylum."

"There were lots of students on the demos last week. In 1968 when the students were attacked the unions called strikes."

"We want that now—for themselves and for us."

Representatives from 33 universities met last weekend to discuss the next steps.

Their statement said, "Despite the repression it is not, and never was, time for negotiations and compromise with the government."

"We call on all students to escalate mobilisations and to take to the streets on the rail strikers' protests. We also call to participate in all the May Day marches and the 5 May education strikes."

"To allow students to continue to struggle, we call for students to be automatically marked as having passed exams, and for occupations if universities don't agree."



STUDENTS JOINED an 8,000-strong protest in Lyon last week

PICTURE: PHOTOTEQUE ROUGE/DAMIENVERGNE

New injury trend for victims of Israel

ISRAELI SOLDIERS killed four PALESTINIANS, including a 14 year old boy, and wounded more than 150 others last Friday.

Thousands of people were demonstrating on the Gaza-Israel border for the fourth week in a row.

Huge plumes of black smoke from burning tyres engulfed the border area.

Against the might of the Israel forces, some Palestinians threw stones toward the fence or flew kites with flaming rags dangling from their tails.

Israeli troops have killed 32 Palestinians in protests since late March.

Muhammad Ibrahim Ayyoub, who was killed last week, was

the fourth child to die.

More than 1,600 have been wounded by live fire in the past three weeks, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

The director of the emergency department at Al-Shifa, Gaza's largest hospital, said they had observed "a new trend of injuries" since 30 March. That's when Palestinians launched the Great March of Return protests.

The new trend is that "the entry point of the bullet is small yet exits leaving a big hole".

Al-Shifa has also had unprecedented cases of tear gas injuries involving "concussion, severe cramps and unconsciousness due to gas inhalation".

The mother of Muhammed Ibrahim Ayyoub sits with an image of her son

FIGURE IT OUT

8 years of bailouts in Greece have come with strings attached demanding austerity—and have failed to end economic crisis

3 separate bailouts were designed to help European banks get the money Greece owed them

1.5 million people in Greece live in extreme poverty, according to a study last year

Anti-austerity fury in Greece

HOSPITAL workers, council workers and teachers across Greece were set to march and strike together on Wednesday this week.

Hospital workers are fighting to demand mass recruitment to the health service, and no dismissals of contract workers. Council workers are also fighting to protect the jobs of 7,000

contract workers who face the sack.

And teachers are demanding a mass recruitment drive, and for new starters to be on permanent contracts.

Public sector workers are resisting austerity and free market reforms that the Syriza government is implementing at the behest of Greece's creditors. They

are the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund—known as the "Troika".

Syriza was elected in January 2015 on a promise to end austerity and defy the Troika, but quickly capitulated. It signed up to Troika "memorandums" that enforce austerity.

On other pages...

Labour and the state's war drive
>>Pages 14&15

Join our protest for West Papua

THE PEOPLE of West Papua (160 miles north of Australia) have suffered decades of oppression under Indonesian rule.

In 1962 Indonesia invaded West Papua and Western government, led by the United States, chose to appease the oppressors who they saw as useful in the region.

Since then there have been hundreds of thousands of death as a result of the occupation.

On 15 May the Free West Papua campaign will hold a demonstration in London. Please join us on the day and follow @FreeWestPapua on Twitter.

Renato Philip
South London

Tories are hypocrites

A COUNCIL candidate in Hackney, east London, has been suspended from the Tories for vile Islamophobic posts on social media.

Alexander van Terheyden, running in Hoxton West also recently attended a rally headed by the former English Defence League leader Tommy Robinson.

The same Conservative Party that lambasts Labour for antisemitism is itself a nest of racists.

I have no doubt that the Tories harbour far more racists than Labour ever will.

Ellie Holmes
East London



This Tory regime is racist to the very core of its politics

THERESA MAY deliberately created a racist "hostile environment" in order to discourage migrants and refugees coming to, or staying in, Britain.

The scandal of the treatment of the "Windrush generation" was one powerful sign of that. Some may have been deported, others forced into destitution.

But there are disgracefully many other examples of Tory racism.

Barly Koyangbwa is a refugee. He fled to Britain from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to seek refuge in 2013.

His family was targeted and members of his family were killed by the ruling regime of Joseph Kabila.

Now living in Manchester Barly has applied for asylum.

He continues to speak out against what is happening in a conflict from which millions have fled.

Opposed to the rule of Kabila, some Congolese refugees formed a resistance group, and Barly is a leading member and spokesperson.

The home office has rejected Barly's claim for asylum.

This is despite them accepting that he is "at real risk of persecution" if he is returned to the Congo.

You can help Barly by signing the petition at bit.ly/BackBarly.

Mark Krantz
Manchester

■WHAT HAPPENED to the "Windrush generation" was not an oversight or a mistake.

It was a deliberate policy developed over years in an effort to drive down migration and proclaim "success" for a vicious police of scapegoating.

Theresa May did not respond to the rise of Ukip, still less to the mood revealed by the Brexit vote.

She pioneered the policies that Ukip then tried to more openly promote.

Everyone needs to understand that May is ideologically committed to the use of racism for political ends.

Eleanor Hollings
Carlisle

Planning applications exclude people's voice

CHANGES TO planning law brought about by the Localism Act in 2011 were supposed to give local communities the opportunity to shape development in their area.

Increasing democracy and giving members of the public greater influence over the big decisions that affect their lives were claimed to be the hallmark of the new legislation.

What a failure. What a lie. Decisions about a rumoured supermarket development in my street in

York saw the decision to recommend approval made before the planning application had even been submitted.

Local councillors who would sit on the planning committee refused to discuss our concerns, and refused to talk to us about it.

This is not unusual. This is how the planning system works.

Please help by signing our petition at bit.ly/PlanningPetition.

Andrew Dickinson
York

Black people face extra housing crisis

TENANTS HAVE now condemned Haringey council's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on racism and housing.

New data shows that black and minority ethnic residents will be disadvantaged by Haringey's reliance on market-based schemes that require big deposits and advance payments.

We already knew that 48 percent of households in Haringey have no savings or are in debt (excluding mortgages).

The newly-released data shows that



The fight must continue

69 percent of black households, and 74 percent of Asian households in Haringey have no savings or are in debt.

These people cannot

rent or buy the new homes being built here.

Haringey Council didn't ask, and didn't tell about these devastating figures.

The local election candidates for both main parties in Haringey (Labour and Lib Dem) have ditched the Haringey Development Vehicle plan.

But they continue with grandiose demolition and redevelopment plans which will exclude poorer people and those with no savings.

Paul Burnham
North London

Just a thought...

Thanks from TUSC prisoner

I WRITE on behalf of Chris Fernandez. He is a former Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition election agent, currently serving 15 months imprisonment.

He wants to express his thanks for all the letters of support he has received from Socialist Worker readers after your article on 28 February.

Chris did try and write in himself but was not allowed to send letters to a PO Box address.

You can write to Chris at Chris Fernandez (21-12-1957), A5447ED, E-wing, HMP Nottingham, 112 Perry Road, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3AG. The envelope should include your name and address on the back.

Martin Sleath
Nottingham

Asperger was a Nazi doctor

AS SOMEONE with Asperger syndrome I was horrified to read that the doctor after who it is named was an active participant in the Nazi regime.

Surely we need a new name.

Helen Wilson
East London

Not even the fig leaf of vote

CAN WE take it as official that Britain is no longer a democracy, now that Theresa May has gone out on a limb without consulting parliament and ordered unapproved military action in Syria?

It was a complete departure from long-established procedures.

And the Scottish government should emphatically condemn this debasement of the democratic process.

William Burns
Edinburgh

Money wasted on youth cuts

WE LEARNED last week that the government spent £5 million preparing the policy to remove housing benefit for 18 to 21 year olds.

This was, thankfully, scrapped after a year of operation.

Another great triumph of the Tories' economic stewardship.

Mary Barnes
Cheltenham

JOIN US AGAINST THE FLA

Racists and fascists want to bring Islamophobia onto the streets of London and Manchester next month. Nazi Tommy Robinson and the Democratic Football Lads Alliance plan to protest in London on Sunday 6 May. The original Football Lads Alliance intends to march in Manchester on Saturday 19 May. Activists spoke to **Tomáš Tengely-Evans** about why they're joining the mobilisations to stop them

TWO DANGEROUS racist groups plan major mobilisations in coming weeks. They need serious opposition on the streets.

Nazi poster boy Tommy Robinson—former leader of the English Defence League (EDL)—has called a far right gathering in Hyde Park in west London for Sunday 6 May.

The protest is an attempt to regroup the forces of the far right in Britain under the guise of defending “freedom of speech”. It's becoming a magnet for every far right supporter, with alt right blogger Milo Yiannopoulos flying in from the US to speak.

The racist Democratic Football Lads Alliance (DFLA) and Veterans Against Terrorism (VAT) groups plan to march on Speaker's Corner. They are then likely to march together to the head office of Twitter.

Populist

Alarming, their involvement will mean a coming together of fascists and supporters of the racist populist Ukip party.

It's crucial that large numbers turn out on the Stand Up To Racism (STUR) and Unite Against Fascism counter-mobilisation.

Another group, The Football Lads Alliance (FLA) plans to march in Manchester to target Muslims.

When the FLA began marching last year, its leadership aimed to build a racist street movement. Now it is openly working with fascists.

Anne Marie Waters was the main speaker at its last mobilisation in Birmingham and will be joining them in Manchester. She was judged too racist even for Ukip—and is now leader of the far right For Britain party. Founder John Meighan quit the FLA

last week to “refocus energies into his personal and professional life” and handed control over to a “new admin team”. The new admin team regularly posts videos and content from Nazi Tommy Robinson.

And it includes a former member of the fascist EDL now in a group called the Stoke Infidels.

It is vital that large numbers oppose these marches on the streets by joining counter-demonstrations called by STUR and Unite Against Fascism.

When racist and fascist groups march, their aim is to take control of the streets. They want to turn town centres into no-go zones for Muslims, migrants and anyone else who opposes them. Taking to the streets to stop those groups is the only way to make sure they fail.

For details of the SUTR and UAF mobilisation in London go to bit.ly/6Maydemo. For details of the SUTR and UAF mobilisation in Manchester go to bit.ly/19Maydemo.

‘They are peddling racism’

Rabnawaz Akbar, Labour councillor for Rusholme in Manchester

WE DON'T need the FLA coming into our city peddling racism.

It is an insult to memory of the 22 people who lost their lives and hundreds who were traumatised in the Manchester Arena attack last May.

The FLA's stated objective is that it's against “extremism”, but it clearly has an ulterior agenda.

Even the Premier League warned stadiums that they are trying to further bigotry against Muslims.

There isn't a single British National Party (BNP) council candidate standing anywhere in the country in the local elections this time.

That's clearly a success. And the EDL has disintegrated.



Rabnawaz Akbar

But the FLA is an attempt to mobilise a street movement on a bigoted agenda.

If you look at its recent protest in Birmingham, former EDL leader Tommy Robinson got the largest cheers.

Everyone knows Robinson's agenda. Anne Marie Waters, who also spoke, has similar views to him.

The Welsh Nazi Luke Pippin was there as well as the Pie and Mash squad.

They are trying to sow seeds of hate in our community.

But there is a Stand Up To Racism counter-demonstration on the day. It's about mobilisation of unions, all communities, faiths and beliefs in Manchester to send the message—“We will not allow you to come.” We should say, “We'll not let them walk through the streets and let them into our city.”



Protest in Birmingham against the FLA

PICTURE:GEOFF DEXTER

The far right may be splintered and nasty but it is also trying to regroup

★ **ANTI-RACISTS can cheer at the fact that the racists have already fallen out.**

The DFLA split from the FLA after a row over money with the leadership around John Meighan.

It's a signal that their organisations are unstable. But that instability can make them more dangerous—and doesn't necessarily mean they'll collapse.

A reconciliation between the FLA and DFLA could be on the cards now that Meighan has resigned.

A post in the FLA's secret Facebook group after Meighan's resignation said, “We would love as many DFLA, Veterans or anyone at all to come and show support on 19th May.”

“We will also support any event that the DFLA or Veterans put on.”

“We have different events for each group so as long as we choose different dates we can support each other.”

This means the FLA could also support Robinson's gathering at Speaker's Corner in London on 6 May.

And the DFLA and Veterans could also join forces with them on the march in Manchester on 19 May.



Nazi Tommy Robinson got a warm welcome from the far right

★ **THE RACIST populist party Ukip is facing wipeout in the local council elections in England on 6 May.**

In a dangerous new development, Ukip hope to rebuild by joining with forces with the DFLA on the streets. This could mark the beginning of a break with the party's strategy until now, which has been solely focused on electoral politics.

Ukip and the DFLA are targeting towns where cops and authorities have failed victims of child sexual exploitation. They marched in Telford and Rochdale and are working together in the run up to the elections.

Ukip MEP Bill Etheridge in particular has appealed for fascists to join the party to make it a “real force”. In a Facebook live Q&A last month one user asked, “Why won't you let former EDL members join?”

Etheridge replied, “As far as I'm concerned, come on board.”

And he boasted about working with the fascist White Pendants. “I got grief when the Pendants came to help me,” he said. “Thank you to the Pendants for helping me and I share their views on British law.”

Anti-fascists reduced the EDL to a rump organisation of hardcore Nazis

★ **TOMMY ROBINSON is treated like a celebrity by supporters of the Football Lads Alliance.**

He is a Nazi who wants to build a fascist movement on the streets. Robinson is the former leader of the EDL and was member of the BNP.

Anti-fascists reduced the EDL to a rump organisation of hardcore Nazis compared to the thousands it could mobilise at its height in 2009. Since quitting as leader, Robinson has been trying to make a political comeback.

He sees the FLA and DFLA as a potential recruiting ground to rebuild a fascist movement.

‘We need to get together’

Tara Higgins, Salford City Unison union member

WE'VE GOT to call out the FLA for what it is—a bunch of racists.

When it comes to Manchester on 19 May instead of people staying indoors we all need to get together to celebrate our diversity.

It's all to do with the Manchester Arena bombing last May. Manchester is such a diverse place and people by and large get on—and the FLA want to break that down.

I've seen for myself that they are a racist group. Over the last few weeks we have had constant racial abuse on our Facebook page, saying, ‘They all look the same’ and other stuff like that.

I think the FLA is using football to recruit.



Tara (left)

I've even seen on its page people who've been drawn in and aren't questioning some of what they're writing.

We had a Stand Up To Racism organising meeting against the FLA last week and I think we're going to have another one. It's good to get some ideas out there about how we can promote our event.

We need to be speaking to all our friends who don't know what the FLA is, and telling them it is a racist group.

‘Make clear our opposition’

Daniel Lewis, CWU union north west regional chair

SEE EXTREMISM in the murder of Labour MP Jo Cox and Mohammed Saleem. And I see extremism with the words that come out of Darren Osborne, who was responsible for the Finsbury Park Mosque terror attack.

We need be tackling it and not focusing on one race or religion. The FLA is a group of people who've caught on that people are angry, but they are being used to cover up blatant racism and fascism.

The messages and undertones of what the FLA is saying is about disunity in society.

If we go to the depths of what's going on in the world, it's about

the neglect of working class people and anger about austerity.

But when you've got capitalist and far right leaders, they pick apart sections of society and turn them against one another while money bags is sitting on top.

We always have to make clear our opposition to racism. If you're in work, down the pub, in church or at the mosque or synagogue, you've got to have an open conversation and take it on whenever it comes up.



Daniel Lewis

‘Trump gives racists energy’

Rakhia Ismail, Labour councillor for Holloway in north London

THE FLA is dangerous—we have to get people together and support Stand Up To Racism against it.

We're meeting with Arsenal Football Club to talk about the FLA at the club.

The FLA is about Islamophobia—it's the politics of Donald Trump and Nigel Farage.

The world of politics is in flux thanks to Trump.

And that's where the racists like the FLA get their main energy because he gives them hope that they can do it too in Britain. People are really fed up

because of the destruction that Margaret Thatcher left behind. But they have been fed lies that refugees and asylum seekers are to blame. And groups like the FLA are fuelling it.

We're seeing the rise of fascism right across Europe, the right is growing and building up alliances. So that's where we need to build up alliances against them.

We will always combat them with love and peace—we do not need to go back to the 1930s or 1960s.



Rakhia Ismail

It aimed to build a racist street movement. Now it is openly working with fascists

WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } PUBLIC MEETINGS

LONDON: ISLINGTON

A Rebel's Guide to Martin Luther King book launch

Wed 2 May, 7pm,
The Old Fire Station,
84 Mayton St, N7 6QT
With author Yuri Prasad

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

A Rebel's Guide to Martin Luther King book launch

Wed 2 May, 7pm,
Epainos Church,
Lichfield Rd, E3 5AT

{ SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

BARNSELY

Problems a Corbyn government would face

Thu 3 May, 7pm,
YMCA,
Blucher St, S70 1AP

BRISTOL

How can we stop the rise of the far right across Europe?

Wed 2 May, 7.30pm,
YHA, 14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Is there a new Cold War?

Wed 2 May, 7.30pm,
Red Triangle Cafe,
160 St James's St,
BB11 1NR

CARDIFF

Is there a new Cold War?

Wed 2 May, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community
Centre, Cathays terrace,
CF24 4HX

COVENTRY

How can we stop the rise of the far right across Europe?

Wed 16 May, 7.30pm,
West Indian Centre,
159 Spon St,
CV1 3BB

DONCASTER

Syria—why more bombing won't stop the horror

Wed 2 May, 7.30pm,
The Womens Centre,
5 Princes street,
DN1 3NJ

EDINBURGH

Syria—why more bombing won't stop the horror

Wed 2 May, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria St,
EH1 2JL

GLASGOW

After the Oxfam scandal—are NGOs enemies or allies?

Thu 3 May, 7pm,
Avant Garde,
33-44 King St,
Merchant City,
G1 5QT

HUDDERSFIELD

200 years from his birth—the revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx

Wed 2 May, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

How can we stop the rise of the far right across Europe?

Thu 10 May, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Meeting House Lane,
LA1 1TX

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Why socialists say no to bombings

Thu 3 May, 7pm,
The Swarthmore
Education Centre,
2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LIVERPOOL

Syria—why more bombing won't stop the horror

Wed 25 Apr, 7.30pm,
William Morris
Community Centre,
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,
Walthamstow, E17 6QQ



Protesting in Paris in May 1968. The banner reads, 'Workers and students united will win'

The fire last time—class struggle in Paris 1968

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Wed 2 May, 7pm,
The Priory Rooms,
Quaker Meeting House,
40 Bull St, B4 6AF

CHESTERFIELD

Thu 3 May, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library,
New Beetwell St,
S40 1QN

LONDON: CENTRAL

25 years after the murder of Stephen Lawrence—racism and the police

Thu 3 May, 6.15pm,
Room 215, UCL Foster
Court Building, Malet
Place, WC1E 6BT

LONDON: EALING

How can we stop the rise of the far right across Europe?

Thu 3 May, 7.30pm,
Y Lounge, YMCA West London,
25 St Mary's Rd, W5 2RE

LONDON: HACKNEY

25 years after the murder of Stephen Lawrence—racism and the police

Thu 3 May, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel, 2
Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd), E5 0PU

LONDON: HARINGEY

What are the causes of gun and knife crime?

Wed 2 May, 7.30pm,
St John Vianney Church Hall,
386 West Green Rd (corner
Vincent Rd), N15 3QH

LONDON: NEWHAM

The shape of the class struggle in Britain

Wed 2 May, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next to
Morrisons car park), E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTH

How women really won the vote

Wed 2 May, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre, 2b
Saltoun Rd, SW2 1EP

MANCHESTER: CENTRAL

Why we say open the borders

Wed 2 May, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St,
M2 5NS

NORWICH

Syria—why more bombing won't stop the horror

Thu 3 May, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place, NR2 2SA

OXFORD

Going beyond the binary—Marxism, gender and trans liberation

Wed 2 May, 7.30pm,
Restore, Manzil Way (off
Cowley Rd), OX4 1YH

POOLE AND DORCHESTER

Can there ever be a just war?

Thu 7 Jun, 7.30pm, Weymouth
Old Town Hall, High W St,
Weymouth, DT4 9JH

PORTSMOUTH

What are the causes of gun and knife crime?

Wed 2 May, 7.30pm,
Somerset Community
Centre, River's St, PO5 4EZ

SCARBOROUGH

Marxism and ecology (video)

Wed 9 May, 7.30pm,
Tap and Spile,
94 Falsgrave Rd,
YO12 5AZ

SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

Cyrille Regis—the fight against racism in football

Thu 3 May 7pm,
Central United
Reformed Church,
60 Norfolk St (near
Crucible Theatre),
S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

May Day—International Workers' Day

Wed 2 May, 7.30pm,
Central Baptist Church Hall,
Devonshire Rd,
SO15 2GY

SWANSEA

The Bolsheviks, the Russian Revolution and religion

Thu 3 May, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community
Centre, St Albans Rd,
SA2 0BP

YORK

Strikes and the trade union bureaucracy

Wed 2 May, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St,
YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

LONDON

Marx@200

Sat 19 May, 12noon-6pm,
Birkbeck, University of London,
Malet St,
Bloomsbury,
WC1E 7HX.
Speakers include
Alex Callinicos, Sue Caldwell,
Joseph Choonara and
Sally Campbell

Oppose Tommy Robinson and the Democratic Football Lads Alliance

Sun 6 May, 12 noon-4.30pm,
Speakers' Corner, Hyde
Park, W2 2EU.
Supported by Stand Up
To Racism and Unite
Against Fascism.
For more details go to uaf.org.uk
and standuptoracism.org.uk

MANCHESTER

Manchester demonstration—Don't let the racists divide us

Sat 19 May, 11am,
Piccadilly Gardens, M1 1RG.
Supported by Stand Up
To Racism and Unite
Against Fascism.
Against the planned racist
Football Lads Alliance
demonstration.

NATIONAL

Marxism 2018—a festival of socialist ideas

Thu 5 till Sun 8 July,
central London.
Marxism is a four-day
political festival hosted by
the Socialist Workers Party.
marxismfestival.org.uk

A new deal for working people

A demonstration against
the Tories called by the
TUC union federation.
Sat 12 May, 11am,
Embankment, London.
Go to bit.ly/TUC12March

WEYMOUTH

School dinners and poverty

Sat 28 Apr, 2pm,
Weymouth Old Town Hall,
High W St, DT4 8JH.
Public meeting organised
by WeyPAW

CONTACT THE SWP

Phone 020 7840 5600
Email
enquires@swp.org.uk
Post PO Box 74955,
London E16 9EJ

Education farce is at its best when it's at its least serious

Some important issues are glossed over in a new play. But that does not stop the gags and performances from landing home, writes **Sam Lorde**

THIS PLAY is for people who want an intravenous shot of nostalgia for the 1990s.

Education, Education, Education is half farce, half state of the nation commentary through the prism of education.

It is well acted and choreographed and packed full of witty one-liners. Some of the comedy is very physical and linked closely to the choice of music.

The action takes place the day after New Labour's election victory in 1997. The characters jubilate over the prospect of increased education funding.

Meanwhile, chaos reigns. A student is barred from a school trip and launches a campaign of protest, petitioning and fighting to challenge the decision.

Teachers are depicted as morally conflicted over whether to discipline or encourage students.

We get a sense of the ideological underpinnings of the play when the narrator—a German teacher—extols the virtues of the design of the German Bundestag compared to the British parliament.

Much is made of the Bundestag's glass dome. Through this the public can view politicians.

We are told this means the German parliament is more open and democratic compared to the austere British parliament.

Wide-eyed

That may be the PR reason given for the Bundestag refurb, but the reality is so wide-eyed liberals can make exactly the kind of point the play does.

The metaphor of a glass ceiling would be more appropriate. Political allegory is not the play's strong suit.

The audience is treated to a potted history of education policy from 1997 to the present day which attacks the Tories. It glosses over the Labour cuts and PFI deals that had a devastating impact.

Each one of the more important themes the play picks up on could be developed a lot more—the question of discipline in education, for instance.

Education, Education, Education doesn't really know what kind of play it wants to be. That means it can skit about without focus.

It is enjoyable, though, and genuinely funny in places—but go for the farcical nostalgia trip, not in the hope of seeing something profound.

Education, Education, Education is on national tour until 8 June. Go to thewardrobeensemble.com for dates and tickets

Exhibition



Clockwise from top:

The Ploughers, 1906

Storming the Gate, 1893-7

Woman with Dead Child, 1903

All pictures by Käthe Kollwitz (1867-1945) and © The Trustees of the British Museum



Powerful images of loss and struggle

KATHE KOLLWITZ (1867-1945) lived through some of the most turbulent years of the 20th century. They were years of great hope and terrible tragedy.

Her graphic art, printmaking and sculpture established her reputation in an art world dominated by men.

She was a socialist, active in the Berlin Art Soviet, whose manifesto declared, "Art shall no longer be a luxury of the few but should be enjoyed and experienced by the broad masses."

Her first series of prints, A Weavers' Revolt, was inspired by a play which although ostensibly about the 1844 uprisings by handloom weavers, located the cause of injustice

in capitalism itself. The prints won a medal at the 1898 Great Berlin Art Exhibition, only for the award to be vetoed by Kaiser Wilhelm II.

Kollwitz's most famous print was Memorial for Karl Liebknecht completed in 1920.

Murdered

Liebknecht was murdered along with Rosa Luxemburg after the defeat of the Berlin uprising in 1919. Kollwitz made the preliminary drawings in the mortuary on the morning of his funeral.

In the woodcut itself Liebknecht himself is barely visible.

The real subject of the work is the mass of working people who

have gathered to mourn his death.

With the rise of Hitler, Kollwitz was barred from exhibiting and was threatened with deportation to a concentration camp.

She fled Berlin in 1943 to escape Allied bombing, dying just 16 days before the end of the war.

The emotional power of her drawing and printmaking is extraordinary, and the exhibition repays more than one viewing.

In this time of war, displacement and revolt, her work is as timely as it ever was.

Tim Evans

Portrait of the Artist—Käthe Kollwitz is on display at the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Swansea, until 17 June

DVD

THREADS

2-disc Special Edition (Remastered)
Available from online retailers

THE 1984 television drama that shocked the world has been remastered and re-issued on DVD.

Threads imagines the devastation of nuclear war



A scene from Threads

and people struggling to cope with it in Sheffield.

The series was a searing criticism of the mainstream narrative around nuclear weapons.

It remains relevant with bomb-happy US president Donald Trump in the White House.

FESTIVAL

MFEST—FESTIVAL OF MUSLIM CULTURES AND IDEAS

Friday 27 April to Sunday 29 April
The British Library
96 Euston Road
London NW1 2DB
mfest.org

MFEST explores contemporary Muslim thought on subjects from politics to culture.

There will be talks, workshops, performances and an after party on the Saturday night.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- 1 **A Rebel's Guide to Martin Luther King**
Yuri Prasad
- 2 **Choke Points**
Immanuel Ness and Jake Alimahomed-Wilson
- 3 **Marx 200**
Michael Roberts
- 4 **Hope Lies in the Proles—George Orwell and the Left**
John Newsinger
- 5 **Politics of the Mind**
Iain Ferguson

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE

LABOUT MP Mike Gapes got up in parliament last week to defend Theresa May over her bombing of Syria.

It's not just Tory governments that go to war, he said. Labour also has a "long-standing and noble tradition" of bombing and invading countries in the name of "humanitarian intervention".

Gapes listed some of his favourite examples—starting with Iraq, then Sierra Leone, and then Kosovo. And they're just the ones that happened under Tony Blair.

He could have added Korea, Greece, Iran, Egypt, Malaya, Aden, Borneo, Ireland and Afghanistan. They're all places where Labour has crushed colonial uprisings or helped the US to invade.

Is this a noble tradition?

Some of the right's biggest attacks on Jeremy Corbyn have come over questions of war and "national security".

The Labour right has mostly put up with left wing policies adopted under Corbyn's leadership such as scrapping tuition fees, or nationalising rail. But when it comes to opposing wars, getting rid of nuclear missiles or supporting the Palestinians they're in uproar.

For now, they can just about tolerate a party that calls itself anti-austerity. But they can't handle one that says it's anti-war.

Luke Akehurst, an organiser for the Labour right, summed it up neatly at a meeting in parliament last year.

If a Labour government was elected right wing MPs would have to mostly follow Corbyn. But they "have a moral duty to veto anything that might damage national security".

When the right talks about national security, it's a euphemism for Britain's military strength and its ability to throw its weight around the globe.

This deference to national security has shaped Labour's attitudes as far back as the First World War.

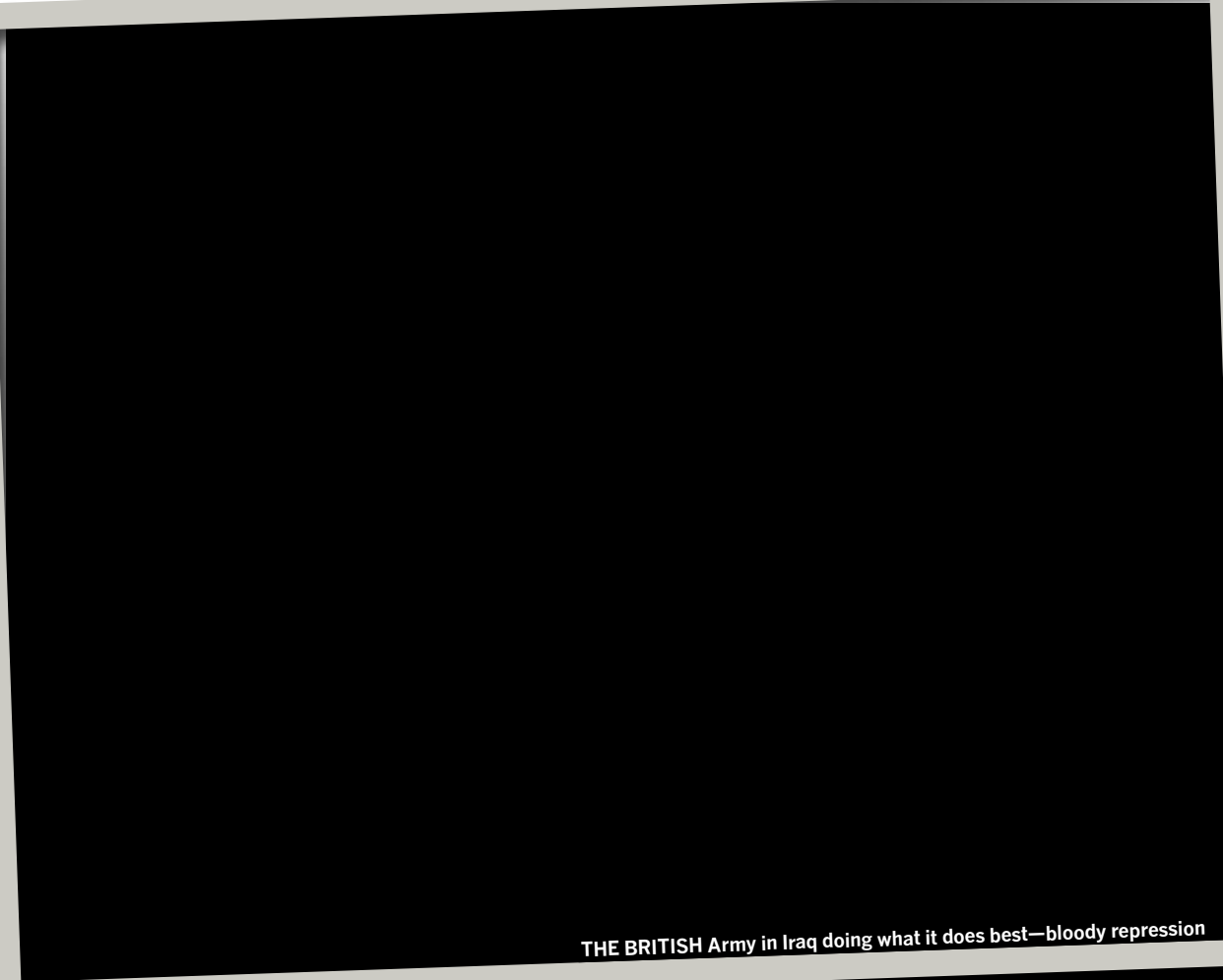
Before it started in 1914, Labour's leaders were apparently anti-war. Many described themselves as pacifists or internationalists.

They included party leader Ramsay MacDonald and Keir Hardie, who is hailed as one of Labour's founders.

When the war started the Labour Party dropped its anti-war manifesto and MacDonald resigned. Its new leader Arthur Henderson joined a coalition government's war cabinet, becoming the first Labour cabinet minister.

What had happened? The war effort demanded that the whole of society rally behind Britain—or more accurately the British state.

That demand had a particularly strong pull on the Labour



LABOUR & THE STATE'S WAR DRIVE

The establishment and the Labour right are most enraged by Jeremy Corbyn when he speaks against war, the links with the US and nuclear weapons. Nick Clark explains why

Party.

Labour claims to give a voice to the working class. But it aims to do this through the workings of the national state—that is, by getting elected to parliament and running government departments.

The problem is that the capitalist state is an instrument of class rule and has interests entirely opposed to those of the working class.

Its health relies on a "strong" capitalist economy in



If Labour wants to manage the state, it has to show it can do that

competition with others around the world. Its interests have to be championed and defended against its rivals and anything else that threatens it.

If Labour wants to manage the state, it has to show it can do that. So when defending the British state's "national interest" meant war in 1914, Labour's leaders joined in.

As partners in the war government they helped to restrict and outlaw strikes—and lock up thousands of people who

refused to fight, many of them Labour Party members.

Since then, Labour has supported almost every war. Every time its support has followed the same pattern.

When Margaret Thatcher's Tory government went to war in the Falklands, left wing Labour leader Michael Foot, who called himself an "inveterate peacemonger" urged it on.

"The government must now prove by deeds—they will never be able to do it by words—that they are not responsible for the betrayal," he said.

Labour's support for war in Iraq began under a Tory government too. As the Tories prepared to join the US in launching the first Gulf War in 1990 Labour gave its "total support" and put pressure on the left to stay quiet.

Since the Second World War, Britain's interests have depended on its close relationship with the US.

Protecting those interests has meant backing the US in every one of its invasions and imperial adventures—something Labour governments have never failed to do.

Tony Blair's invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan are surely two of the most disastrous examples of this.

But he wasn't the first. The Labour government of Clement Attlee followed the US into the invasion of Korea in 1950. That war killed 600,000 Korean civilians, and saw the US drop tens of thousands of gallons of Napalm on Korean towns and cities.

AT THE bidding of the US, Attlee's government increased spending on arms at the expense of the health service and reintroduced, then doubled the length of, conscription.

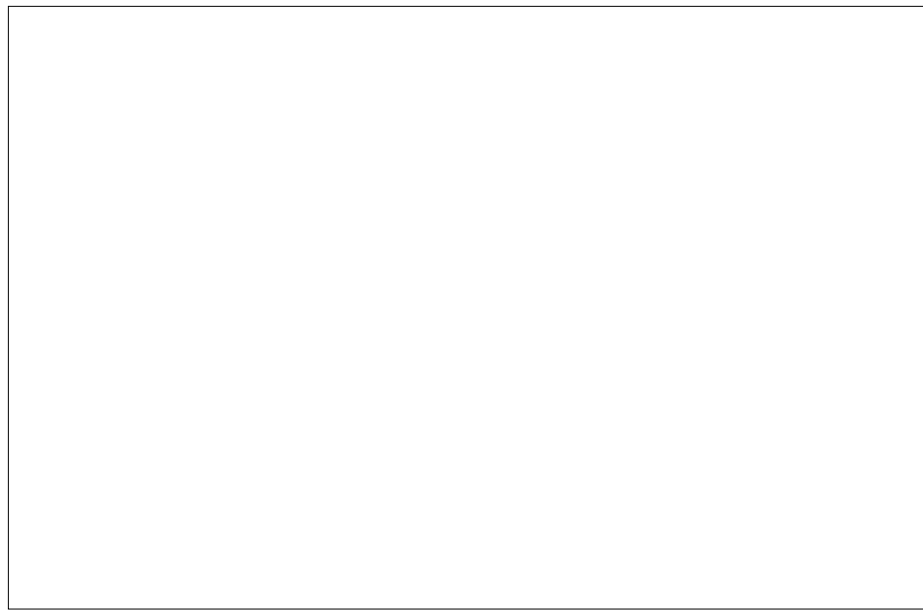
In 1937 Attlee had claimed, "There is no agreement on foreign policy between a Labour opposition and a capitalist government." But by Labour's election in 1945 Tory Anthony Eden—who would later go on to invade Egypt—saw no difference between Labour's foreign policy and his own.

On the day Labour won the election, foreign secretary Ernest Bevin declared, "British foreign policy will not be altered in any way under the Labour government."

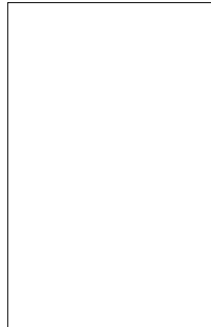
People often like to remember how Labour prime minister Harold Wilson didn't send British soldiers to join the US's war in Vietnam. It wasn't because he didn't want to.

A tiny majority in parliament—and more importantly, mass and growing opposition to war outside parliament—made it impossible for Wilson to join the US. But he did everything else he could to support the war short of sending troops.

And it shouldn't be forgotten that Wilson's government also tried to crush a national liberation struggle in Aden, now Yemen, in which British



The British Army at work in Aden in 1967 (above). **Labour Party hero Harold Wilson** (below) **sent them there.** **Paul Mason** (bottom) **thinks Labour should compromise now before things get out of hand**



soldiers used torture. Or that Wilson sent the British Army into Northern Ireland.

In fact, Labour governments fought desperately to cling on to Britain's colonies as its Empire disintegrated.

Attlee's attempt to crush an uprising in Malaya involved aerial bombing, massacres in villages and mass displacement.

This is the history that Corbyn should break from. But the question of "national security" is so important to Labour politicians that Corbyn has come under more pressure over this than on anything else.

Corralling

Corbyn just about managed to hold Labour together against May's decision to join Syrian airstrikes. But he only managed it by corralling MPs around a demand for a vote in parliament—not against airstrikes in principle.

Had there been a parliamentary vote things could have turned out much worse for him, as the vote in 2015 showed. Corbyn's opposition to war in Syria then led to his first major confrontation with the right—and his first significant defeat.

A rebellion by the right pushed Corbyn into allowing Labour MPs to vote as they pleased on whether to support the Tories. In the end, 66 of them did.

The fact that Labour still supports renewing Trident nuclear missiles despite Corbyn's opposition is seen by the right as a victory. They are backed up by union leaders in Unite and GMB, who see the defence industry as a key source of

jobs—and members.

And if the pressure is hard now, it's nothing compared to what he'll face if he's elected to lead a Labour government. Then he won't just have to deal with his own MPs—the whole weight of the British state will try to crush him or force him into submission.

In 2015, a "senior serving general" reportedly told the Sunday Times newspaper that the army could stage a mutiny if Corbyn tried to scrap Trident or shrink the military.

But they may never have to go that far. Left wing journalist and economist Paul Mason understands the danger, and advocates compromise.

Last year he told a left wing mass meeting at Labour conference that a Corbyn government should avoid confrontation by postponing some of his plans. And he wants that compromise to begin now.

That means abandoning Corbyn's opposition to Trident and the left's "knee-jerk" opposition to wars.

Mason's strategy won't leave Labour in a stronger position to return to those plans at a later date, as he seems to hope. It means following the same path as MacDonald, Henderson, Attlee and all other Labour governments that have come before.

The alternative is to defend and build anti-war resistance on the streets and in workplaces. It's the only thing that can stand up to the right and the coercive might of the state.

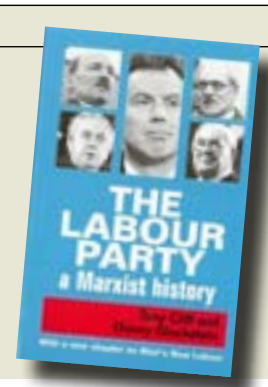
READ MORE

● **The Labour Party and the 'national interest'** by Nick Clark at bit.ly/LabourNational

● **When Old Labour went to war** Review by John Newsinger at bit.ly/OldLabourWar

● **The Labour Party** by Tony Cliff and Donny Gluckstein

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop. Phone 020 7637 1848 or go to bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



MARX AT 200

Marx's insights help us fight against oppression today

We can learn from Marx's understanding of oppression to help us in the struggles against it today, writes **Sarah Bates**



MARX SUPPORTED the fight for Irish national liberation

ANNIVERSARY

This column is part of an occasional series of articles marking 200 years since Karl Marx's birth

● Marx showed how workers have the power to change the world bit.ly/WorkersPower200

● Marx's explanation of why capitalism goes into crisis bit.ly/MarxCrisis200

● For a full list go to bit.ly/SWMarxAt200

thorough analysis of women's oppression.

But in the Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels identify the importance of the family unit to capitalism.

Women play a critical role for capitalism by reproducing the next generation of workers.

"The bourgeoisie has torn away from the family its sentimental veil and has reduced the family relation to a mere money relation," they wrote.

Today, women are more likely to work, but their duties as caregivers



He understood the crucial role that anti-Irish racism played for the bosses

remains much the same.

Some of Marx's predictions have not come to fruition. For instance, he argued that the working class family unit would become irrelevant due to advances in capitalist production.

Developed

Yet Marx's work built a framework for understanding and fighting oppression today. And many of his theories about oppression were developed in greater detail by other revolutionaries, such as Vladimir Lenin.

He built on Marx's understanding of national oppression to argue that socialists should support national liberation struggles.

Marx saw oppression as driven from the top of society. Oppression is rooted in capitalism and class society—and is used to divide working class people.

And he saw workers as the only group within society with the power and interest to struggle for a socialist society without oppression.

So it is necessary to challenge oppression, not as an adjunct to the fight against class society, but absolutely at the heart of that fight.

Capitalism is a dynamic system—and forms of oppression have shifted since Marx's time.

For instance, he didn't write about the struggle for LGBT+ liberation or the fight against Islamophobia.

But Marx's insights are a powerful tool as we struggle against them—and all forms of oppression today.

Racist violence grew from Vietnam War

by ALISTAIR FARROW

FROM US racist shooter Dylan Roof to Norwegian Nazi Anders Breivik, terror attacks by whites are portrayed as “inexplicable acts carried out by one or a few actors”.

Professor Katherine Belew’s new book, *Bring the War Home*, explodes that myth.

Some 168 people were killed and 500 injured in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. Bomber Timothy McVeigh insisted he had worked alone, apart from a couple of people he coerced into helping him.

But Belew argues that his actions cannot be separated from decades of organisation and propaganda in the white power movement.

Other white power groups had planned and almost carried out attacks on the same building before McVeigh.

Belew argues that the US white power movement grew out of the murderous and racist Ku Klux Klan in the wake of the Vietnam War.

The war’s fallout produced social turmoil throughout US



THE OKLAHOMA City bombing in 1995 killed 168 people and injured 500

society.

The visible weakening of US power at the hands of the Vietnamese resistance in the 1960s and 70s had profound effects. A huge anti-war movement swept the world. That pulled people’s ideas to the left.

But a minority of people were pulled to the right, albeit in far smaller numbers than if there hadn’t been a mass movement. Belew argues “the war worked to radicalise and arm paramilitary groups” afterwards “on both the right and left”.

And she points to both the white power movement and the Black Panthers, as well as lesser known anti-racist groups.

She focuses on one racist in particular—Louis Beam. He spent 18 months fighting in Vietnam, returning in

1968. Beam returned home and almost immediately involved himself in the Klan.

In 1983 the white power movement made a turn to confront the US state, what Belew describes as a “revolutionary turn”.

Cells

As part of the turn, Beam developed the idea that white power groups should operate as cells. He argued this meant “no one need issue an order to anyone”.

“Those idealists truly committed to the cause of freedom will act when they feel the time is ripe,” he said.

Yet to this day—despite sieges, shootouts and attacks—the US state still treats white power and fascist terrorism as isolated incidents.

The key stages in the Klan’s development come at points in US history when the ruling class needed to ramp up racism to divide the working class.

The Klan experienced three periods of growth—after the American Civil War, the First World War and the Second World War. Accord-

ing to Belew, these surges in activity “aligned more neatly with the aftermath of war than with poverty, anti-immigration sentiment, or populism, to name a few common explanations.”

Racist violence is central to the Klan’s identity. And their peaks in activity don’t just align with the aftermath of wars—they are key periods for its growth.

For instance, it grew because of the threat of white dispossession after the North won the Civil War and abolished slavery. It grew again after the First World War during the height of Jim Crow racial segregation.

And the Klan revived at the time of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s.

These are periods the US state was under pressure from below and looked to divide and rule. It is no coincidence that racist organisations have capacity to grow at these times.

Bring the War Home The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America by Katherine Belew is available from bookmarksbookshop.co.uk £21.95 plus postage

**JOIN THE
SOCIALIST
WORKERS
PARTY**

- ☐ Yes, I'd like to be a member
☐ Please send me some information

Name
Address
Postcode
Phone
Email
Return to SWP membership department, PO Box 74955,
London E16 9EJ. Phone 020 7840 5602
Email membership@swp.org.uk



Subscribe to Socialist Worker

Have Socialist Worker delivered with your post every week for a direct debit of £5 a month

I want to subscribe to Socialist Worker with a monthly direct debit of £5

Name

Address.....

Postcode

E-mail

Phone

I would like ____ extra papers to sell
(this will not be deducted from my bank account)

For official use only—this is not part of the instructions to
your bank/building society

Sherborne Publications,
PO Box 74955 London E16 9EJ

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay
by direct debit

Originator identification no. 9 7 3 3 5 5

Our reference no.

.....

1. Name and full postal address of your bank or building
society

To the manager:

Bank/building society

Address

Postcode

2. Name(s) of account holder(s)

.....

3. Branch sort code / /

4. Bank/building society account no.

5. Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay Sherborne Publications direct debits from
the account detailed on this instruction subject to
the safeguards assured by the direct debit guarantee.

I understand that this instruction may remain with
Sherborne Publications and, if so, details will be passed
electronically to my bank or building society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and building societies may not accept
Direct Debit instructions from some types of account



Direct debit guarantee

■ This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that
accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.

■ If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your
Direct Debit Sherborne Publications will notify you ten working
days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise
agreed. If you request Sherborne Publications to collect a payment,
confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time
of the request.

■ If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by
Sherborne Publications or your bank or building society you are
entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your
bank or building society.

■ If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back
when Sherborne Publications asks you to.

■ You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting
your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required.
Please also notify us.

Socialist Worker Subscriptions

Post PO Box 74955, London E16 9EJ
Phone 020 7840 5601
Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

Child abuse survivor's book slams the police

Just a Child by Sammy Woodhouse exposes the Rotherham abuse scandal, writes Sadie Robinson

SAMMY WOODHOUSE was key to exposing the failures of police and other authorities to act on child sexual exploitation in Rotherham.

Her campaigning and speaking out lies behind independent reports into the scandal, police investigations and ultimately convictions of abusers.

Sammy previously, who used the pseudonym Jessica, has spoken to Socialist Worker since February 2015. Because of this, we have been able to reveal the extent of police corruption in the case.

Now she's written a book, *Just a Child*, about her experiences. Sammy suffered physical, sexual and emotional abuse at the hands of Arshid Hussain when she was just 14 years old.

The book makes clear that police in the South Yorkshire town were aware of the abuse—but did nothing.

"I think it's a disgrace," Sammy told Socialist Worker. "It's hard to find the words for it really. They had all this evidence.

"So many people could have been saved. If they had acted when they first knew about it, I would never have met him."

One report in 2001 showed that the scale of the evidence that existed against Hussain, who Sammy knew as Ash. "They knew Ash had a criminal record with convictions for various violent crimes," wrote Sammy.

Probation

In February 2000 her GP "informed Social Services that I was 14 and the father of my child was a 24-year-old called 'Mad Ash' who was 'apparently on a probation order'."

But instead of intervening to protect a vulnerable child, social service files recorded that Sammy was "happy with the relationship".

She added that the authorities had a list of places where Hussain had been seen dealing drugs or "handing over exploited children".

She experienced this herself in March 2000, when she had been

READ MORE

Socialist Worker's coverage of the child abuse scandal in Rotherham is available online

● Rotherham abuse victims speak out—"We can make a difference for future generations" bit.ly/SammySpeaksOut

● Cops and council cuts failed Rotherham abuse victims says new report bit.ly/CopsandCouncilCuts

● Just A Child is available from Bookmarks—the socialist bookshop for £7.99

missing and was with Hussain. Police did a deal with Hussain, promising that he wouldn't face charges if he handed her over at an agreed place. At the police station, one officer told her she should be "ashamed" of herself.

Weapon

Another time police found Sammy in bed with Hussain when she was 15—and arrested her for possession of an offensive weapon.

One cop at the police station referred to her as "Ash's girl".

"Ash pretty much ran Rotherham," explained Sammy. "He had a lot of professionals in his back pocket."

The book makes clear how often police were in contact with Hussain and often they saw him with underage girls.

"He must have got pulled over by the police about three times a week and nothing ever seemed to happen to him," wrote Sammy.

"There were loads of occasions when I was seen by police officers in Ash's car but nobody stopped us.

"I understood that he had friends in the police, and that some of them must have been looking out for us."



More online ...

For a longer version of this article go to bit.ly/JustAChild



SAMMY WOODHOUSE with her baby at the time of her abuse (top) and on ITV's *Loose Women* today (left)

PICTURES: SAMMY WOODHOUSE



Cops said they were 'understaffed' and had lost evidence on the case

SAMMY REJECTS the police and authorities' excuses for failing to keep children safe.

"A lot of people have said they didn't understand grooming back then," she said.

"But you don't have to understand grooming to know that a child having sex with a 24 year old man is being abused."

The other excuse regularly given by cops for their inaction was that Sammy refused to make a complaint.

But Sammy was among hundreds of children who had been groomed to believe they were in a relationship.

And when she did eventually complain, the cops wouldn't listen.

"From the ages of 14 to 16 their excuse was, 'Sam won't make a statement'," she said.

"But when I was 16 I did make a statement and I was ignored."

An officer called PC Dawson came to her house after she complained that she had been attacked by Hussain while out with her baby son. She wrote, "He said, 'What do you expect? He's got every right. You've stopped him from seeing his son.'"

Sammy later reported Hussain's



threats to have her killed. "They said the dispute was a 'domestic' and that I should ignore it," she wrote.

"I felt abandoned and betrayed by everyone in authority. The police were leaving me at Ash's mercy yet again."

When the abuse scandal became national news, and Sammy realised she had been a victim,

she again contacted police. She was told that police were "understaffed" and that they had lost evidence relating to her case.

When she asked if officers who had been involved at the time would give statements she was told that some would not.

Sammy wrote, "I decided there and then that relying on the police to help me was the last thing I was going to do."

It was only after she went to the media that police were forced to take the allegations seriously.

And in February 2016 Hussain was sentenced to 35 years in jail for abusing Sammy and other children.

Sammy hopes her battle can give hope to other people who have suffered abuse and injustice.

"I've had so many messages from people saying they're coming forward," she said. "The book has already done more than I wanted it to do."

"If I can achieve everything I've achieved, so can anyone. I don't have special powers, I'm just a person like everybody else."

"People should believe in themselves and keep talking. Just don't give up—keep fighting."

IN BRIEF

Strikers take on outsourcing

SOME 100 workers at the University of London were set to strike on Wednesday and Thursday this week.

The workers are demanding to be employed directly by the university. They are currently employed by outsourcing firms.

Cleaners, porters, security officers, receptionists, gardeners, post room workers and audiovisual workers delivered a near-unanimous vote for strikes.

Bin workers refuse to give in to bullies

REFUSE WORKERS in Kirklees, West Yorkshire, are deciding whether to take action over allegations of bullying and racism.

The Unison union, representing 70 bin workers, says its members are being harassed and don't think they can take time off for medical appointments.

Four workers are also owed up to 30 weeks of holiday leave. The result of the ballot is expected on 8 May.

Solid action wins at a concrete maker

CONCRETE MAKERS at Tarmac Building Products have won a battle against lower pay for new starters.

Unite union members at the company based in Stanford Le Hope struck for 11 days over fears of a "two tier workforce".

As well as scrapping the new starter rate, strikers won a 2 percent pay rise and an extra day's holiday for some.

Taxi workers hail a chance to win rights

THE INDEPENDENT Workers' Union of Great Britain is targeting three private hire taxi firms through separate employment tribunal cases.

Workers want holiday pay and worker status, not phony self-employment, at Green Tomato, Blacklane and A2B.

Cleaners at justice ministry want justice

CLEANERS WORKING at the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) are voting on whether to strike after talks broke down between their United Voices of the World union and outsourcer OCS.

The cleaners want the London Living Wage as well as conditions the same as other workers at the MoJ.

Nurseries campaign comes to parliament

SALFORD SAVE Our Nurseries Campaign was set to go to parliament on Thursday this week to push for funds to guarantee the nurseries' future.

Labour-run Salford council earmarked the five nurseries for closure but has now ring-fenced the funding until September 2019.

BRITISH MUSEUM



WORKERS AT the British Museum protested on Wednesday of last week demanding bosses bring them in house after the collapse of outsourcing giant Carillion. Carillion's collapse earlier this year left them with no guarantees for their jobs, conditions or future. The workers' PCS union wants the British Museum to employ them directly.

NHS

Say no to new scheme to privatise NHS jobs

HEALTH WORKERS in Leeds are fighting plans to outsource over 2,000 jobs to an arms-length company.

They include porters, cleaners and clinical engineers, who could be transferred

Hospital bosses see such arms-length companies as another way of bringing in privatisation in the future and slashing costs.

Examples of this process are multiplying across England.

One Leeds worker said, "The majority of the workforce in the estates and facilities is against the proposed changes.

"The three major unions representing us are Unison, Unite and GMB.

Displeasure

"The reason for our displeasure is the fact we will no longer work for the NHS trust but a company owned by it.

"Even though it is stated we will be protected for 25 years, I do not understand how that can be guaranteed.

"Employers can change



PROTESTING FOR the NHS in Leeds

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

conditions for economic, technical or organisational reasons.

"I'm sure after a short period, the company would find a reason." They added, "This would also create a two tier workforce within the trust."

■ SOME 900 porters, cleaners, security staff and others in Wigan are also campaigning against

outsourcing—and have begun a strike ballot.

Hospital bosses want to transfer them to WWL Solutions Ltd.

It's owned by the trust—for now—but is a bridgehead to full-blooded privatisation and could lead to a two tier workforce.

Trade unionists should strike to keep all services in the NHS.

HUDDERSFIELD DOCTORS

OVER 80 people attended a meeting to defend GP surgeries in Slaithwaite near Huddersfield last week.

The meeting was organised by Slaithwaite Health Centre SOS, a group set up by patients when cuts and rent rises threatened to make the popular and respected GP practice unviable.

The group's campaign has succeeded in saving the practice for the time being, but other practices are threatened.

The rationale for downgrading Huddersfield Royal Infirmary was "care closer to home". But the GPs who provide that care are under attack.

Martin Jones

PAY CAMPAIGN

THE UNISON union's NHS pay consultation is underway.

The leadership is recommending a shoddy below-inflation pay deal.

It would give over one million workers 6.5 percent across three years—3 percent in the first, 1.7 percent in the following two. With inflation at 3.6 percent, it represents a real terms pay cut.

The deal would also abolish automatic increases through annual increments.

Progression would be less often and dependant on meeting targets. This will strengthen the hand of every bullying manager to target those who are seen as "difficult". It must be rejected.

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

Is the university pensions deal about to fall apart?

A DEAL reached by the UCU union and UUK bosses to end a series of strikes over pensions is potentially in chaos.

Workers struck for 14 days against a plan to turn their defined benefit USS pension scheme into a defined contribution one.

The deal agreed to withdraw that immediate threat and instead to set up a "joint expert panel" made up of UCU and UUK representatives to discuss the future of the scheme.

The root of the problem is that the scheme was valued in such a way as to make it wrongly appear that it was in deficit. A leaked "update" from USS boss Bill Galvin shows that USS intends to stick to this valuation.

This could force workers and bosses to pay more in contributions.

Carlo Morelli is a UCU negotiator and UCU rep at Dundee university. He told

Socialist Worker, "We want USS to back off from trying to undermine the panel. USS's valuation is flawed but it will not give it up.

"The whole agreement could now unravel. The UCU higher education committee meets on Friday.

"We should be ready to put our strikes back on to defend our pension scheme."

■ UCU London Region is holding "UCU: A union transformed: UK-wide activists' assembly/dayschool" on Saturday 28 April. Go to bit.ly/UCU28April for details.

Sadie Robinson

■ UCU UNION members at Hull College are set to strike on 9, 17 and 18 May.

The workers voted by 79 percent for strikes to stop plans to slash around a third of the workforce.

They also passed a motion of no confidence in college boss Michelle Swithenbank last week.

BROMLEY LIBRARIES

WORKERS IN Bromley's libraries have returned to work, after an indefinite strike over pay and outsourcing.

The 36 Unite members were outsourced last year to Greenwich Leisure Limited.

Workers were fighting for a pay rise in line with the 2 percent local government pay offer.

They won a 2 percent rise, paid facility time for union reps, the London Living Wage and a commitment to filling a number of vacant job posts "as quickly as possible".

As part of the resolution, Unite agreed that there will be no further changes to pay this year, and pay won't be tied to council workers' bands in the future.

SCHOOLS

NEU UNION members at Acton High School in Ealing, west London, struck on Tuesday. The walkout follows a 24-hour strike last Thursday and a two-day strike last month.

Strikers are fighting bullying, management's response to behaviour issues and a planned takeover by Ark.

Ealing NEU divisional secretary Stefan Simms told

Socialist Worker the strike was solid.

"We know that 109 were on strike out of 117," he said.

"We've done lots of leafleting and a majority of responses from parents and others support us."

Workers plan a two-day strike from next Tuesday and another two-day strike the following week.

Then they plan three-day strikes until the end of term.

NUJ UNION CONFERENCE

Battle launched for pay equality in media

DELEGATES AT the NUJ journalists' union conference have backed a national pay campaign against appalling inequality for women in the media.

The campaign was unanimously agreed at the conference in Southport last weekend.

It's good the union has won pay rises for the lowest paid at the BBC and is now contesting the ongoing gender imbalance.

But the conference missed a real opportunity to tap into the anger over pay and wider issues such as racism to build confidence for a fightback.



Journalists have to fight

NUJ leaders' failings were highlighted when the executive council lost a proposed subs rise. Younger journalists won the day after arguing

an increase would deter recruitment on top of low pay and lack of union activity.

The weaknesses showed as union leaders failed to give a lead on challenging media bosses' on key issues such as how to fight racism and antisemitism, media bias or opposing the Syria bombings.

They also led opposition for a ballot to set up a political fund. Yet a call for the government's racist Prevent strategy to be scrapped was carried. Anti-racist activists are now planning a series of Stand Up To Racism initiatives.

Phil Turner

CWU UNION CONFERENCE

Corbyn's plans get stamp of approval from union

by NICK CLARK in Bournemouth

LABOUR LEADER Jeremy Corbyn attacked the Tories' immigration policies in a speech to the CWU union conference in Bournemouth on Monday. And he said Labour would welcome migrants.

He also called on workers to join the TUC union federation demonstration in May, and to canvas for Labour in the local elections.

Later in the conference delegates backed affiliation to Momentum.

Corbyn slammed Theresa May for trying to create the "hostile environment" for undocumented migrants that has seen people from Britain's former colonies face deportation.

He said, "The Windrush scandal and those sickening 'Go Home' vans show up the Tory government's patriotic posturing as a sham.

"We need to end the Conservatives' constant pandering to a rich elite at the top in an attempt to divide the rest of us."

It came a day after delegates at the conference passed unanimously two motions slamming to Tories over the Windrush scandal, but rejected a motion defending freedom of movement.

Speakers used Corbyn's previous promises to end freedom of movement. They suggested that migration undercuts wages—a dangerous idea that divides workers. Corbyn made



THE CONFERENCE floor (left) and general secretary Dave Ward welcomes Jeremy Corbyn (above)

PICTURES: SOCIALIST WORKER

his own appeal to patriotism with a promise to make St George's Day a national holiday.

He said if Labour had wins the next election "we would all be on the beach celebrating St George's Day today".

Corbyn called on workers to join the TUC's New Deal for Workers demonstration on Saturday 12 May.

"I hope to see as many of you as possible on the 12 May," he said. "It's a really important opportunity for as many people as possible to come together to show that the current way our economy and society is being run

simply isn't working." Corbyn also put strong emphasis on campaigning and canvassing for Labour in the local elections.

"Our positive message for radical change only gets heard when party and union activists deliver leaflets, knock on doors and talk to and listen to people," he said.

After Corbyn spoke, CWU general secretary Dave Ward said that with Corbyn as leader, the union's support for Labour is "the strongest it's ever been." He added, "We're going to deliver that election victory."

But it will take much more than a

Labour success in the elections to end austerity.

And it won't be enough to wait for the next general election and a possible Labour government.

There has to be a fight now. The Tories' crisis gets deeper and deeper—resistance from workers in unions could smash them.

Labour councils have to refuse to implement cuts, causing yet another headache for the Tories. And 12 May has to lead to action if it is to mean anything.

It must be a springboard for union leaders to lead a fight.

AIRPORT WORKERS

Air strikes?

LUTON AIRPORT could be hit by coordinated strikes this summer. The Unite union is holding strike ballots in four separate disputes.

Workers employed directly by Luton Airport are fighting for an improvement on the company's 2 percent pay offer.

Baggage handlers employed by Menzies Aviation are in dispute over the company refusing to negotiate.

And workers at the International Currency Exchange will be balloted over unpaid unsocial hours pay.

All ballots will close on 11 May, with strikes potentially hitting the end of May.

Sarah Bates

RAIL WORKERS

DLR action called off

STRIKES HAVE been suspended on the Docklands Light Railway (DLR) in London due to "significant progress" in last minute talks at the Acas conciliation service. RMT members were due to walk out between 19 and 22 April, in the latest action in a dispute that has raged since December.

■ RMT union members are marking the second anniversary of the dispute against driver only operation (DOO) trains with a protest outside parliament.

Workers on the Greater Anglia network are planning to walk out against DOO on 5 May, and are implementing an Sunday overtime ban from that date.

ANTI-RACISM

Justice for KC on the street

THE FAMILY of Kevin Clarke are holding a campaign stall in Lewisham this Saturday.

Kevin died after coming into contact with the police on 9 March. His family are leafleting to raise awareness of Kevin's case in advance of a public meeting, details of which are yet to be confirmed.

Police admit restraining Kevin. Witnesses described Kevin as in distress, but not presenting a threat to anyone.

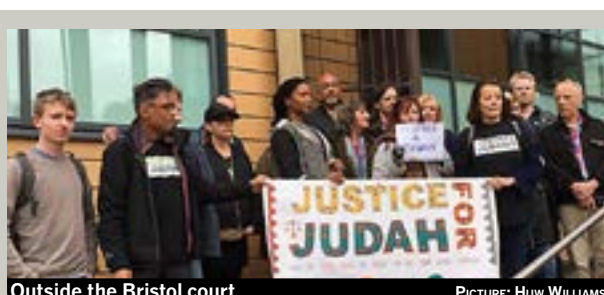
Cops had tasered Kevin before, after which his family describe him as "living in fear"



Kevin Clarke

of the police. Kevin's death has "devastated his family, friends and the local community."

● Join the leafleting—28 April at 12 noon, Lewisham clock tower Lewisham, SE13 6BB. Go to bit.ly/JusticeKC



Outside the Bristol court

PICTURE: HUW WILLIAMS

Alleged victim of police violence branded 'racist'

JUDAH ADUNBI is alleged to have been assaulted by a cop in January 2017. But days prior to the cop's court case Judah was arrested and accused of racism.

Judah is a former member of the Independent Advisory Group to Avon and Somerset Police and a Labour Party member.

His treatment has seen a support campaign set up and hold big meetings. In a

statement it said, "We can only deduce from the latest events that there is still no real appetite to resolve the problems of institutional racism that remain within Avon & Somerset Constabulary."

Huw Williams

● Judah is due to speak at the Stand Up to Racism solidarity with the Windrush event on Friday 27 April.

Go to bit.ly/BristolWindrush

DPAC



On the day of action

PICTURE: JANE CLENDON

Universal Credit protests

ACTIVISTS IN Disabled People Against Cuts (Dpac) held a day of action against Universal Credit (UC) on Wednesday of last week.

Protesters occupied the central lobby in parliament during Prime Minister's Questions. Activists set up a "crime scene" to highlight the crimes against claimants that have taken place under UC.

The new benefit replaces six others. It will mean 100,000 children miss out on free school meals when it's fully rolled out, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies. And

the Resolution Foundation thinktank said UC will leave 3.2 million families worse off.

Other protests took place in towns and cities across Britain.

■ DISABLED people and supporters are set to gather outside the High Court in London next Tuesday in support of the first judicial review against UC. The review hearing concerns the removal of the Severe Disability Premium and the Enhanced Disability Premium under UC. There will be a photocall at 9.45am.

Sadie Robinson

Modi gets warm welcome

PROTESTERS demonstrated on Wednesday of last week in London against the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He was in Britain as part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in London.

Islamophobic attacks have risen across India

recently, often carried out by members of Modi's party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Theresa May welcomed Modi to Britain to discuss trade deals that benefit only big business. He was also granted an audience with the queen.

Harjeevan Gill

WEST'S BOMBS KILL 40 YEMENIS

by CHARLIE KIMBER

AT LEAST 20 people were killed when an airstrike by the Saudi Arabian-led coalition hit a wedding party in northern Yemen last weekend.

At least a further 46 people, including 30 children, were wounded in the airstrike.

And it wasn't the only murderous attack in recent days. Some 20 people were killed in another Saudi-led coalition airstrike in south western Yemen last Friday.

The blood of all these victims is on the hands of the Saudis and their international backers.

Arms

Saudi Arabia is supported and supplied with arms by Britain, the US and France.

These are the same powers that launched missile attacks on Syria this month because of their supposed abhorrence of civilian deaths.

Saudi Arabia's leading figure Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman recently received a red



THERESA MAY welcomes Saudi Arabian crown prince Mohammed bin Salman to London in March

carpet welcome in the US and Britain. He poses as a progressive reformer while ordering the murder of children.

Three years of war have

seen over 13,000 civilians killed, most of them by Saudi Arabia and its allies.

They are determined to block Iranian influence and to impose a government

that will support Western interests.

According to independent monitor Yemen Data Project, a third of the 16,847 airstrikes since the war started

have hit non-military targets.

Part of the war strategy is to blockade ports with the help of US ships.

This has led to widespread starvation. In January United

Nations (UN) agencies said that more than 22 million Yemenis—nearly 80 percent of the population—required humanitarian aid.

Famine

And more than a third of those were at risk of famine.

The malnutrition and the destruction of basic health provision have led to possibly the worst cholera outbreak of this century.

The UN World Health Organisation said last December that it had recorded more than a million suspected cases of cholera since 2017.

The British government sold over £4.6 billion of arms to Saudi Arabia in the first two years of bombings.

Increasing numbers of export licences have been granted despite mounting evidence of war crimes and massacres.

All the arms sales and support for Saudi Arabia must end now.

More online

For more on Yemen, go to bit.ly/torriessaudi

FAST FOOD WORKERS

McDonald's workers supersize their strike—and bosses are not loving it

by ALISTAIR FARROW

WORKERS AT five McDonald's stores in England were set to strike on Tuesday of next week.

Two stores in Watford, north of London, are out—as well as one each in Manchester, Cambridge and Crayford in south east London.

The Bfawu union members voted by 95 percent for strikes.

They are fighting for £10 an hour, fixed hour contracts, equal pay for young workers and union recognition.

After one-hour pickets



On strike last September

Picture: Guy Smallman

at McDonald's stores from 7am in Manchester, and 8am in Cambridge and Crayford, workers will move to Watford to protest at 12 noon.

Watford is the home town of McDonald's CEO Steve Easterbrook. Workers hope to shame the multimillionaire who earns over £5,500 an hour.

"Steve Easterbrook needs to get on his private jet and come to Watford to meet with us and our union," said Watford McDonald's worker Richard.

"It's time for Easterbrook to answer to the people of Watford

and treat his workers with respect.

"While he earns thousands of pounds an hour, we're barely scraping by."

Widespread

Workers have called for supporters to come down to their picket lines and join them on the protest in Watford.

The strike comes as insecurity in the workplace is becoming more widespread. The Office for National Statistics on Monday released new figures showing the number of zero hours contracts increased to

around two million in November 2017. But the McDonald's strikes show that workers on zero hours contracts can fight back.

Annalise from the Cambridge store said, "This international workers' day we will send a message to McDonald's, the world's second largest employer, that the labour movement is back and ready for action."

"We won't stop until McDonald's respects our human right to a living wage of £10 an hour and our right to a union."

Send messages of support to the bakers' union at info@Bfawu.org.uk